

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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DEATHS.

On the 19th April, at Jerusalem, Palestine—
MENASHEE EZEKIEL, formerly of Shanghai, China,
aged 71 years.

On the 5th May, at Yokohama, MAXWELL, only
son of Mr. and Mrs. MAX SURTH, aged 16 months.

On the 8th May, at Colombo, on her way home,
MARGARET McCOWAN, the wife of GEORGE
STOTHARD, of Rubana Estate, Teluk Anson,
Straits Settlements.

On the 12th May, at Frankfort House, Lloyd
Road, Singapore, JESSIE, the youngest daughter
of A. KOENITZ, aged 14 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 23rd April arrived
per P. M. steamer *China*, on the 21st May
(28 days); and the English mail of the 25th
April arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, on
the 23rd May (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

It is stated that the Russian Ministers of
War and of Communications will visit the Far
East during this summer.

The *N.-C. Daily News* Peking correspondent
telegraphed on the 12th inst.:—The majority of
the Ministers of the Grand Council are opposed
to Viceroy Yuan Shikai's proposition as to the
engagement of a foreigner to act as Adviser to
the Chinese Government.

The Japanese court-martial at Hiroshima
which has been trying Colonel Awaya, Major
Hayashi and Paymaster Naito on charges of
looting in North China, has given a verdict
of "Not Guilty." It is believed the officers
will be released from prison immediately.

Dr. Morrison telegraphs to the *Times* from
Peking that the agreement to restore the Shan-
haikwan railway to the Chinese has evoked
opposition on the part of several Powers,
notably Belgium and Russia, on the ground of
the undertakings which Li Hung-chang gave.

Lord Cranborne in the House of Commons
last week promised that enquiries should be
made into the report that the French had
acquired certain Chinese territory near Macao.
This is the report which we published in our
issue of the 15th inst., from our Macao cor-
respondent.

We learn from a correspondent that a new
law has gone into effect by which all foreign
newspapers arrived at Vladivostok are sent to
Moscow to be examined by the censor—which,
he says, probably means the last of them. At
any rate the *Hongkong Weekly Press* has not
been delivered at Vladivostok since the new law
was passed. We wonder whether Manchuria
will be affected by this arrangement.

The *Temps* (Paris) professes to regard the
railway agreements with China as tantamount
to an abrogation by England of the policy of
the "open door," and says that England wishes
to prevent Russia's acquisition and consolidation
of a political hegemony at Peking by the con-
quest of the Chinese railways. The *Temps* adds
that it is a continuation of the system which
produced the Anglo-Japanese Alliance.

We reported already, says the *Ostasiatische
Lloyd*, that the 3,000 German Troops who are
now in Chihli will be reduced to 1,600 men, who
will form the German part of the occupation
garrison, until all Powers see fit to withdraw
their troops. Orders are now received in
Tientsin to send home at once 1,100 men of the
German garrison. Three hundred of these have
to leave Tongku so promptly that the German
Mail, on the 21th inst., can take them on board
when leaving Shanghai for Europe.

About 2 p.m. on the 13th inst., says the *Kobe
Chronicle*, Count Katsura, the Premier, and
Baron Komura, Minister for Foreign Affairs,
immediately on the conclusion of the Cabinet
Council, waited on the Emperor at the Imperial
Palace, remaining till about 4 p.m. It is stated
that the business considered at the Cabinet
Council was the policy followed by a "certain
Power" in regard to the disturbances in China,
and the possibility that the Anglo-Japanese
Alliance might be brought into practical opera-
tion. Ministers reported to the Throne the
result of the Council's deliberations.

Le Courrier Siamois says that news from
Siam and Laos, or rather from the disturbed
district which divides them, is reaching Saigon
with more and more difficulty. Another French
detachment was ready to leave Saigon at any
moment. A telegram of the 13th inst. address-
ed to a friend by M. Klobukowski, French
Minister in Siam, says:—"All is well at
Bangkok."

Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, with officers
and staff (nineteen in all), was to be presented
to the Japanese Emperor and Empress at 10.30
a.m. on the 16th inst. and then to be invited to
dine with the Emperor at noon on the same day.
Count Katsura, the Premier, Viscount Tanaka,
Minister for the Imperial Household, Marquis
Tokudaiji, the Grand Chamberlain, Baron
Komura, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sir
Claude MacDonald, British Minister, and
General Okazawa, Chief of the Emperor's
Aides-de-Camp, were also to be present. This
is the first occasion on which the staff of a
foreign Admiral has been invited to dine with
the Emperor of Japan.

A conference of the foreign Ministers to
Seoul was held at the Japanese Legation in that
city on the 6th inst. to consider the invitation
of the Korean Government to send special
Envoys to the ceremony to be held in Septem-
ber in celebration of the 40th anniversary of
the Korean Emperor's accession to the Throne.
It was decided that the Powers should not send
special Envoys, but that the respective Minis-
ters should represent their Governments. The
Korean Government is understood to be nego-
tiating with the Russian Minister to Seoul
for the withdrawal of the consent given to the
Russian proposal regarding the connection of
the telegraph lines at Wiju. Their efforts are
certain to be without result.

A Yokohama telegram, dated the 13th May,
reports:—The N. Y. K. steamer *Wakanoura
Maru* (1,555 tons) collided with the British
twin-screw second-class cruiser *Eclipse* (5,600
tons) yesterday afternoon while leaving the
harbour. The *Eclipse* was badly damaged, a
hole four feet in diameter being made amid-
ships, while a gun was also injured. The
cruiser has been taken to Yokohama (2 Yo-
koku) for repairs. The *Wakanoura Maru*
sustained no damage. It is reported that the
accident was caused through the steering gear
of the *Wakanoura Maru* refusing to act, but it
has since been tested and found to be in good
order. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha has apolo-
gised to the Admiral (Sir Cyprian Bridge) for
the damage done to the *Eclipse*.

A Tokyo gentleman, who has spent some
time at Dalny investigating trade conditions,
seen by a correspondent of the *Asahi*, stated
that all works at Dalny, except the work on
the ground, are now suspended. It is believed
that projected works in connection with the
harbour, &c., will be actively put in operation
on the return of the superintendent engineer,
who is now in St. Petersburg. The construc-
tion of the East China Railway would appear,
he says, to be suspended. Some of the railway
sleepers used have been found to be rotten, but
there is no attempt to replace them; the pur-
chase of materials having ceased. He further
more states that the report that the Russian
authorities disallowed Japanese travelling in
Manchuria was not correct, only those who did
not comply with the regulations for travelling
being so debarred.

THE QUESTION OF CHINESE CONSULATES.

(Daily Press, 21st May.)

In the "Notes on Native Affairs" published by our Shanghai morning contemporary we observe a statement in reference to the suggested establishment of Chinese Consulates in important centres of trade in British territories. It is announced that SHENG Kung-pao had telegraphed to the Chinese Foreign Office at Peking that he had found the British Commissioner, Sir JAMES LYLE MACKAY, willing to consider favourably the question of the establishment of Chinese Consulates in British territories, under the favoured nation clause, and asking "whether this clause inserted in the New Treaty should be considered as settled." Now we are of course unaware what "centres of trade" were referred to, or what countries were meant; they may have been in the United Kingdom, or they may have been in the Colonies or India. If it be proposed to establish Consulates in certain cities of the United Kingdom no great harm could result, though probably little good would accrue to China or to England. If, however, the British territories alluded to meant the Colonies or India, some friction might ensue on the establishment of Consulates. For instance, it is doubtful whether either the great Canadian Dominion or the Commonwealth of Australia would appreciate the honour of a Chinese Consul being appointed to live there. They would fear, and not without some reason, the interference of the Chinese Consul with the Chinese living there. The action of the Chinese Consul-General at Singapore some years ago in endeavouring to collect a war tax from the Chinese in the Straits Settlements will not soon be forgotten. Nor would the Governments of Canada and Australia care to have a centre of Chinese influence created in those countries, as trouble might arise with China. All the drawbacks and difficulties imaginable in other places, however, would pale before those which would follow the establishment of a Chinese Consulate in this Colony. This question has been mooted on several occasions by the Chinese Government, but has, each time, been firmly and definitely rejected. We trust the idea was not broached to Sir JAMES MACKAY. In case it should be so broached we will set before the British Special Commissioner some few of the principal objections entertained here to the establishment of a Chinese Consul in the Colony.

In the first place, and foremost in political importance, is the fact that the creation of anything in the shape of a Chinese official yamen here would be the establishment of an *imperium in imperio* in the Colony. The mandarin would be regarded as the outward and visible sign of Chinese suzerainty, and not only would there be perpetual appeals to him for intervention, but the Chinese masses might in certain eventualities refuse to recognise any other authority. In the second place, the Consulate would speedily become a centre for the collection of information and of its dissemination among the ignorant coolies and others. In the third place, it would become the engine for the collection of illegal taxes from the Chinese population. No wealthy Chinaman would long be safe, unless indeed he had no relations in China and had no desire to revisit the country of his origin. As, however, the vast majority of the Hongkong Chinese have the bulk of their relatives in Kwangtung, they could always be easily reached by the provincial officials by means of these relatives, who would be regarded

by the Canton Government as hostages for their compliance with any demand that might be made upon them. At present the Chinese residing in Hongkong not only enjoy the protection of the Colonial Government, but they are also free from Cantonese surveillance. This immunity would soon cease if a Chinese Consul were permitted to reside in Hongkong. He would very quickly make himself acquainted with the business, the income, and the family connections of all the principal Chinese residents, and it would not be long before he commenced to apply the screw. At first, no doubt, he would proceed warily, and would content himself with occasionally collecting subscriptions for various purposes to which it would be equally difficult for the victim, or the Hongkong Government on his behalf, to take exception. After a time, however, and when he had surrounded himself with spies and agents, the Consul would spread his nets wide and invite the flies to walk in. There would, of course, be troubles when he overstepped the mark and tried to snare a bolder fly than usual, and he might even get recalled for an excess of zeal or for unauthorised interference with the Hongkong people; but his place would promptly be taken by another spider, who, profiting by his predecessor's downfall, would proceed with greater caution. But, in any case, the presence of a Chinese consular representative in this port would be prolific of mischief, while the necessity for such an appointment could not, by any sophistry, be demonstrated. There is absolutely no need for such an official. The Chinese do not want his protection; they are exceptionally well represented in the Legislative Council; and they enjoy the special attention of the Registrar-General, who is virtually a protector of the Chinese community. On every ground, therefore, any proposition having for its object the erection of a Chinese Consulate in this Colony should be most strenuously resisted, not only in the British interest but also on behalf of the Chinese, who, on the faith of the assurance of protection by the British Government, have been induced to settle here for purposes of trade or employment.

PLAGUE-FIGHTING IN BOMBAY.

(Daily Press, 22nd May.)

The recently published report of the Bombay Municipal Commissioner on the plague in that city in the year which ended on the 31st May cannot help being of interest in this Colony, where, if our epidemics of the disease do not rival those of Bombay, we have to encounter at least all the principal difficulties which confront the Bombay sanitary authorities. Bombay, as is well known, when first attacked by the plague adopted in the endeavour to stamp it out most drastic measures, far more extreme than those taken in Hongkong in 1894, the year of our first visitation. In consequence of this policy those in whose care the health of Bombay rests had very shortly to deal, as the *Times of India* put it recently, with a disorganised city and a demoralised rabble. The people had not the slightest confidence in the steps taken by the Government, and by their strenuous resistance defeated practically all the objects in view. The result was that the disease was not mastered, while on the other hand the future welfare of Bombay was permanently threatened. Finally the authorities became convinced of the hopelessness of the struggle to combat plague in such a manner and a change of policy was introduced, the sequel of

which is to be seen in the report which we are discussing. What this is we can perhaps most briefly show by quoting again from the *Times of India*. "Though the total mortality from all causes was 'some' what less than in the previous year, our contemporary, 'the plague mortality' showed a considerable increase. The 'excess was doubtless due to some extent' to the abandonment of the policy of compulsory segregation of contacts which, in the opinion of many of the district officers, 'has resulted in the spread of infection. But, after all, the first essential condition of a successful combat against an epidemic is the absence of panic and an attitude of confidence in the public mind: and Mr. SHEPPARD is only voicing the universal popular feeling when he says that the 'abolition of compulsory measures has helped in a considerable degree to bring about these very desirable and beneficent results. . . . In many cases the people have shown that they appreciated the measures of disinfection and evacuation, the two most effective weapons in the armoury of plague prevention. They have even of their own accord sought for the co-operation of the officials in carrying out these measures, and have sometimes done it without such co-operation. These are solid, tangible advantages not to be disregarded even in the face of an increased plague mortality.' Now the compulsory removal to hospital of plague sufferers, which Bombay has abandoned, is a question which concerns us very materially in Hongkong. We have endeavoured as far as possible to enforce such a policy so far, and it was only last year that a slight relaxation was allowed, in some cases. A little more than twelve months ago H. E. the Governor proposed in a minute to the Sanitary Board that plague patients at Yaumati should be allowed to be treated in their own homes under certain conditions—a suggestion which found no favour with the Board. In June last Mr. E. OSBORNE proposed substantially the same plan, but the Sanitary Board refused to change its mind. It was felt that the questions which Doctor BELL asked at the time were unanswerable. Where were all the people to go, he said, who left the infected houses? Where were the people to look after the patient? Where could the medical men be got to look after the cases? And how could the continuous isolation of the patients be guaranteed? Bombay, as the report which we are considering shows, has a system of 'health camps' which is found to answer the intended purpose admirably. We are told that there is reason to believe that this means of warding off the disease has taken a real hold on the popular mind, and that the people would go into camp in much larger numbers if they were provided with free quarters, and permitted to occupy them for the whole epidemic period of four or five months. 'It is well-known,' says Mr. SHEPPARD, 'that, once they are lodged under such circumstances, they endeavour to remain in these huts as long as they possibly can, and are only turned out after considerable difficulty.' The poorer classes, however, are handicapped by want of means from taking proper advantage of the health camps. That these camps deserved their name is evidenced by the fact that the average number of residents at the private health camps during the year under report was about 2,600 a month; and the average mortality from all causes among them was less than 4 per thousand, against 91 per thousand for the whole city of Bombay. But it is needless to point out that we have

not in this Colony the opportunity of forming such camps as were started in Bombay; nor, as the poorest class has a difficulty in availing itself of them, would they seem to promise much relief for Hongkong. The local authorities are very willing, we may be sure, to learn what can be learnt from Bombay's experience of the plague, but the difference of conditions puts serious obstacles in the way. The Indian city has given a fair trial to a policy which has abandoned the compulsory eviction of plague contacts and coercive measures generally, and thereby has saved the rate-payers nearly 25 per cent. of the cost of plague operations, while restoring the confidence of the people. Furthermore it is claimed that among the beneficial effects of the abolition of compulsion is an appreciable diminution in the desire and in the attempts to conceal plague cases, the rock on which all measures of prevention and protection have hitherto been wrecked—a remark which applies very strongly indeed to Hongkong also. The question for us to solve is to what extent we can profit by the history of Bombay's treatment of the plague, allowing for the differences of circumstances and environment. We have this year seen the adoption of more rational measures of precaution and with the help of the better class Chinese have endeavoured to explain matters more fully to the poorer natives. The result of this remains to become manifest. Thus early it is not possible to form an opinion, but in the meantime the collation of other communities' experiences is as valuable as ever.

PRESS CORRESPONDENTS IN THE FAR EAST.

(Daily Press, 23rd May.)

A controversy which has occupied some space recently in the English newspapers in Kobe calls attention once more to the question of the responsibility of Press correspondents in the Far East telegraphing to the home journals about the affairs of this part of the world. The Kobe papers maintain that the Tokyo correspondent of the London *Times* (who is, as is well known, editor of the *Japan Mail*) has seriously misrepresented the attitude of the foreign residents in Kobe and elsewhere in the matter of the house-tax. It appears that in a telegram of the 1st March the Tokyo correspondent said:—"If the foreign residents quietly paid under protest, as recommended by their representatives, the Japanese Government might possibly agree to subsequent arbitration, but there is little hope of such a result in face of the defiant attitude of the foreign residents and their public refusal to comply with the requirements of the law." As a matter of fact, the correct statement is that "foreigners, under the advice of the diplomatic representatives, refused payment," etc., as in fact the same correspondent telegraphed to the *Times* on the 24th March. On the strength of this and other statements telegraphed to the *Times* from Tokyo, as for instance that "the Washington Government, recognising the justice of Japan's claim, refuses to become a party to the arbitration," the *Kobe Chronicle* says that it is most unfortunate that the *Times* should allow its columns to be used for the dissemination of such misleading "news." We cannot here go further into the question of the Tokyo correspondent's representation or misrepresentation of the foreign residents' attitude, but the point which is raised by the controversy is one of no little interest and importance to us in the Far East. It is

obvious that the Press correspondents attached to leading newspapers at home have it in their power to do either much good or much harm by the manner in which they regard their responsibilities. A most unenviable notoriety has been gained by Shanghai in the past for its share in the spread of tales which have no claim to authenticity. So much is this so that the "bunder" is a household word in the East and its meaning is not unknown in London and America. The blame for this rests, as will easily be understood, with a few men only, yet their colleagues have suffered with them. But Shanghai is not the only sinner; Hongkong too has its bunders, and so have other ports in the Far East. There are two totally distinct classes of misrepresentation, one of which is venial compared with the other. There is the report which has a small substratum of fact, which has become exaggerated in its passage until it is barely recognisable; this, telegraphed without sufficient sifting of the evidence, is calculated to mislead home opinion gravely. Compared, however, with such prodigious efforts of the imagination as the "Peking massacre," it sinks into insignificance in its power for evil. It may be claimed that such a concoction, when finally disproved, carries with it its own cure, in that those who were deceived experience a revulsion of feeling. This is hardly true. The embitterment of mind induced by stories of atrocities lasts beyond the period of belief in them, and it is not easy to convince the more ignorant that what they have once given full credence to is baseless. The credence afforded to the intentional lies about the British army in South Africa is sufficient evidence of this; and, to be fair, we must admit that the exaggeration of certain undoubted acts of treachery and murder perpetrated by the worst section of the Boers stirred up in Britain a sentiment against the Boers as a whole which was not justifiable. In the case of South Africa, the evil is gradually finding remedy in the minds of all but the dishonest or the hopelessly ignorant. Before this comes to pass, however, much harm has been done. This is a great argument for an intelligent Press censorship over war news. Unhappily the Press censorship is seldom intelligent. And war alone makes such control of correspondents possible, and then only in districts under military rule. The only check on the correspondent in time of peace, or unfettered by extraneous supervision, is his own sense of responsibility and faculty of discrimination of the news which reaches him. To read the Far Eastern news which appears in the home papers is often a revelation—not infrequently, a revelation which makes one wonder how the home readers can make head or tail of what they are told about affairs out here. It is to be feared that it is not only ignorance of geography which causes our friends at home to fear at times for our security in this Colony.

We are in a position, says the *P. and T. Times*, to make an authoritative statement regarding a much disputed point concerning the British private indemnity claims, viz., their value under the vagary of the "exchange." The British claims have been converted into sterling at the rate of seven taels or ten dollars to the sovereign. They will be paid either in England in gold, or in China at the rate of exchange on the day of payment. Fall in silver does not affect them. It will further be noted that there is to be no appellate court, from the decision of the Commissioner of Claims; that decision is final. Our readers all probably know that an official registry is open at the Consulate-General for the transfer of such claims, or the assignment thereof in whole or part.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF KOWLOON.

(Daily Press, 20th May.)

At a period when the Colony of Hongkong is losing, for a time at least, its spokesman in the popular interests in the Legislative Council, it is more than ever urgent that all concerned in the Colony's welfare should exert themselves to insist on attention being paid to important public matters which are in danger of being neglected. One of the most urgent of these is the manner in which the portion of the Colony situated on the mainland is to be developed. In Victoria itself we have seen the manifold evils which spring from simply, so to speak, throwing a town together. Insanitary rookeries, ill-constructed streets, the lack of any European reservation, defiance of the building laws, and many other causes have made the city on this island what it is, and it is only by expensive, if not desperate remedies that amelioration can now be brought about. But this is not so yet in Kowloon, and we have there a splendid field in which to show that we have profited by the lessons of the past. But what do we see? A ride through portions of our suburb on the mainland will demonstrate that already blocks are being run up in the old style, with the buildings too high and the streets too narrow, that Chinese houses are spreading over many of the best sites, and in fact that Kowloon threatens in time to develop into a second Victoria. It is true that a public park is promised, and an European reservation talked about. But more than this is wanted. It is absolutely essential that some supervision, such as was not exercised over the growth of Victoria, shall be exercised by the Government over the laying out and building of Kowloon. As we have said, a bad start has been made, and old abuses are again being tolerated. But it is not too late to mend matters now. The public has a right to demand that the authorities shall interest themselves in this matter and show a provision for the future which their predecessors, to their shame, did not exhibit in watching over the growth of Hongkong. Those now in power have seen to the full the evils which arise from the old methods, and they have no longer even the excuse of ignorance, which those before them had, to justify them in neglecting to take steps which now are abundantly proved necessary. We are to see a considerable increase in the staff of the Public Works Department. Much of the work which awaits the increased staff had unavoidably to be left undone before owing to an absurd insufficiency of men. Now that we are promised a better manned Department, let us at least see some of its energy directed to controlling the future development of the city on the mainland, which there is still an opportunity of directing into the right way. This opportunity will not remain open indefinitely, and it is therefore essential that attention shall be paid to the question at once.

Dengue fever is still very prevalent in Rangoon and amongst the shipping classes afloat. Amongst this community the preventive officers have come in for their share of the disease, since no less than fourteen officers at one time were unable to attend to their duties. East Rangoon has also provided a large number of victims. In one new residential quarter nearly every second family has been down with the disease, which was always contracted when least expected and under inexplicable circumstances. The malady is very contagious, a fact that has been proved by tenants catching the fever from servants and vice-versa. The last epidemic of dengue fever broke out in India and spread to Burma in 1877.

THE HEALTH OF HONGKONG.

The cases of infectious disease notified last week were:—Plague 31 (25 in Victoria, 30 Chinese and one Japanese) and 34 deaths; cholera 39 (33 in Victoria, 31 Chinese, 5 Indian, 1 German, 1 Portuguese, and 1 Japanese) and 36 deaths; diphtheria 1 (European); enteric fever 1; small-pox 1 (in the Harbour, American).

The plague cases for the year, up to the end of last week, were 103 (93 Chinese, 10 other Asiatics) with 98 deaths (91 Chinese, 7 other Asiatics). Since then 28 more cases have been reported, bringing the year's total up to 131.

The following telegram has been received by the Government from H. B. M.'s Consul at Saigon:—"Twelve days' quarantine will be imposed on arrivals from Hongkong on account of bubonic plague."

The following telegram has been received from the Government of Singapore:—"Hongkong declared to be infected with plague."

The experiment of bringing down from Japan assistant doctors versed in plague work has not, unfortunately, proved to be as successful as was anticipated, notwithstanding the laudatory comment which the move evoked from some of the home medical circles. It had been first of all proposed, of course, to get the assistant doctors from India, but this was found to be impossible owing to the comparative scarcity of these experts in that Dependency. Then it was agreed by the Sanitary Board in their dilemma to fall back upon Japanese doctors, a decision that, curiously enough, was cordially welcomed by the Chinese and pro-Chinese representatives on the Board, who had all along contended that Japanese would be more acceptable among the native population and would be less liable to obstruction in the performance of their duties than the Indians. Accordingly the Japanese, seven in all, were engaged through the agency of the British Consulate-General there and were sent down not long ago to be ready to commence work during the season when plague is regarded as being epidemic. They had not been long stationed in the Colony when difficulties emerged, for it was found that, with perhaps one exception, they were unable to speak or write English, a fatal drawback when it is considered that after the examination of suspicious cases of death they were required to fill in in English the particulars connected with each case. As a result of their linguistic inefficiency, there has not been that lightening of the duties of the senior sanitary inspectors which their coming was expected to bring in its train, but rather the reverse has been the case, for each inspector had to take one of the doctors under his care in making his daily rounds and was therefore so much hampered. During the stay of the Japanese doctors here the work of filling up the daily returns has, we are led to understand, occupied the entire time of one of them, so that his services for outside work have been practically rendered useless, although he has the best knowledge of English of the lot. Now the sanitary authorities have recognised the futility of carrying on the present system, and it has been arranged that three of the doctors be sent back to Japan. Meanwhile billets will be found for the remaining four in the work of the bacteriological examination of dead rats, but so far as the original scheme is concerned, whereby the Japanese would have undertaken outside work, that may be considered to have fallen to the ground.

The *Japan Mail* states that arrests of journalists continue in connection with charges of blackmailing. It would be difficult and tedious to attempt any detailed account of these apprehensions, and, after all, the broad fact alone is interesting. In Tokyo alone over 300 householders have furnished conclusive proofs of having been blackmail'd or threatened with blackmailing, and the police are now vigorously prosecuting their campaign in the provinces. The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says that many of the blackmailers regarded their occupation as perfectly legitimate, and were persuaded that it fell within the normal scope of a journalistic career. The unfortunate probability is that many rascals will escape owing to the difficulty of establishing a case against them.

CHINA SQUADRON PRIZE-FIRING.

H.M.S. *Terrible* arrived here last Saturday afternoon from Mirs Bay, where the annual prize-firing was carried out. The firing this year was not so successful as was the case in 1901-2—two years of phenomenal records that produced such a revolution in naval gunnery. Although the abnormal number of rounds fired and hits made have not, in this instance, been obtained as on previous occasions, yet the firing, disappointing as it must be to the "man behind the gun," who estimates success by the resultant percentage, was not altogether unsatisfactory from the gunnery expert's standpoint. This is evidenced in the following summary on the firing, wherein Captain Scott quaintly but tersely explains the technical causes of apparent failure to his crew:—

NOTICE.

With regard to the reduction of hits at the prize-firing just completed as compared with the results of last year, I accept the majority of the blame. My constitution having been boiled, or baked, whichever you like to call it, for the last three weeks, I ought to have realised that the constitution of our cordite would have been similarly affected. My endeavours to exist in this climate, I suppose, absorbed so much of my attention that I unfortunately did not fully appreciate that the charges you were going to use had had a three weeks' baking at about 30 deg. over the normal temperature for which your gun-sights are calibrated, and it was not until three guns had fired that I realised that it was the cordite and not the men behind the gun who were in fault. For your information, the range table is calculated for cordite at 60 deg. F. and the charges you used were found to be at 90 deg. F. This excess of temperature over the normal materially increased the muzzle-velocity and threw all the first shots over the target: the mist and rain made it extremely difficult to estimate this distance over, and consequently many more shots were wasted.

As soon as the change in ballistics was found out and the correct sighting promulgated, I was glad to see that the remaining 12 men who had to fire put on 51 hits out of 62 rounds, a percentage of 82.2, and that Abraham, Beatty, Ashton Cooke, and Davidson, made "possibles." Petty Officer Grounds still maintains his position as the best shot in the ship, with 9 rounds and 7 hits in a minute, but he is run very close by Abraham, Metcalfe, and Beatty, with 6 hits each.

The shooting was very much slower than last year, 19 rounds less having been fired, a fact that I attribute entirely to the misty and rainy state of the weather making the target very difficult to see.

The officers asked me to stop the practice, as they could hardly see the target from the casemates. I did not do so, as we have to bear in mind that we must be ready to fight an enemy in any weather.

Under these circumstances I think the efficiency of the ship as regards shooting is as good as, if not better than last year.

If we have to fight an action in the tropics, it is not our own constitutions we must think about, but the temperature of the cordite.

(Signed) PERCY SCOTT,
Captain.

It is pleasing to note that a few captains of guns displayed their accustomed form, a fact which testifies that, while Captain Scott's system is not an infallible one, it is the best method of instruction the Navy has as yet adopted. This system has made the China Squadron, to quote Mr. Arnold White's phrase, "the best squadron of the most powerful fleet in the world." We are glad to give such due prominence to men upon whom much responsibility will fall when the Empire needs their service behind the gun.

The gunnery officer (Lieut. Grant), while not reaping like his two predecessors an abnormal percentage reward as the fruits of his labour, must be congratulated upon the general results achieved, which are still very high as percentages run in naval gunnery. Captain Scott is also to be commended for persisting in carrying out the firing even at the expense of lowering his former high standards of

averages. In not waiting for ideal prize-firing weather he has introduced an innovation in this respect it is hoped will be emulated, for, as Lord Selborne has forcibly pointed out, such firing must and should be carried out in all weathers. Biscuit weather will invariably produce Biscuit results, but true efficiency can only be determined by shooting carried out under all atmospheric and climatic conditions. The *Terrible's* recent firing emphasises the relevancy of this assertion. The *Rinaldo* and *Vestal* also carried out their prize firing last week, having umpires from the *Terrible*, the weather being worse, if anything, than that experienced by the *Terrible*. The question of the cordite is one for experts to deal with. The timely discovery of its erratic behaviour in a hot climate is equivalent to a new war invention. At 1,600 yards range the firing was carried out with sights lowered to 1,300 yards, and excellent results produced.

Commander Wake, Lieuts. Ellaby, Plunkett, and Loftie were the official umpires, who, so we are informed, gave strict attention to every detail of the firing, no doubtful shot being awarded to the firer, only hits actually on the canvas being allowed to count. Previous to this year, hits anywhere on the target were registered, so that the prize-firing under the new regulations is made more difficult, and obviously more skill is required to establish big records.

BIG FIRE IN WELLINGTON STREET.

The most serious outbreak of fire seen in the Colony since the disastrous one of 29th March last, when over forty houses in Queen's Road West were totally destroyed and damage was done to the extent of nearly a million dollars, was that which occurred early on the 19th inst., Queen's Road West again being the locality concerned. The fire commenced on the second floor, a dwelling house, at 192, Wellington Street, from causes that have not yet been ascertained. Word of the outbreak reached the Central Police Station at 1.30 a.m., and not a moment was lost by the firemen, under Mr. A. Mackie, in repairing to the scene, the direction being clearly pointed by the fierce glare that hung over Queen's Road West. But when the place was reached the miserable history of previous outbreaks repeated itself, for not a drop of fresh water, despite the rains of the past week, was obtainable, and nearly an hour was lost whilst connection was being made with the Harbour. Four houses were by that time beyond all hope of rescue, and the flames had obtained a hold that experience was to prove would not be easily shaken off. Added to the heat and glare of the fire, the hissing of burning kerosene in one of the shops and the loud, fusillade-like reports of exploding crackers in another, were the noisy cries of the natives—men, women, and children—but whether any lost their lives remains yet to be seen. So far, however, no bodies have been found nor have any reports of missing relatives been made to the police, from which it is conjectured that the affair has been unattended with casualty.

Spreading from No. 192, Wellington Street, the flames engulfed and totally destroyed fourteen shops and houses—Nos. 188, 190, 192, 194, 196 and 198, Wellington Street, Nos. 178, 180, and 182, Queen's Road Central, and Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10, Kan U Fong, a lane situated at the back of Wellington Street. The Fire Station in Queen's Road Central at one time looked to be in imminent danger, and was saved only by the same indomitable energy that prevented the conflagration from assuming even more serious developments. As it was, the woodwork on that side of the Station looking into Wellington Street was quite burnt away, and internal damage was also done by water. Two other houses in Queen's Road Central were very badly damaged by fire and water.

As can readily be imagined, the task facing the firemen was a heavy one, and its burden and danger were accentuated by the falling outward of tons of burning debris. These collapses, however, were unaccompanied by accident, although at one time Mr. Mackie had such a narrow escape that his ankle was shaved and at another a hose playing on a vital part of the fire was buried in the falling material, the firemen

holding it having to run for their lives. The Globe Hotel was saved by a miracle, its great walls, two-and-a-half feet thick, presenting a strong barrier to the flames and stopping their progress westward. However, they broke through in two places, but luckily were discovered in time and extinguished.

It is unlikely that an accurate estimate of the damage can ever be made, but it is roughly computed at \$200,000, and is well insured. As with many outbreaks in the past few months, the scope of the present fire was extended far beyond what it need have been by the lack of adequate supplies of fresh water. In this case, as in others, the water authorities were at once communicated with, but the water so much wanted never came, the supply that should have gone to Queen's Road Central being sent, we are informed, to the Wanchai district. If this be the case, there is room for enquiry, for what has happened now may very well happen again.

When the progress of the fire in every direction had been stopped, water was freely played on the smouldering ruins, and in the forenoon a traction engine was requisitioned for the pulling down of these that were still standing. The work was watched by a large crowd of Europeans and Chinese, and amongst the former were several who carried kodaks and took snapshots of the operations at every available opportunity. In these snapshots Mr. E. Dougherty, of the Public Works Department, must have figured prominently, for he was antiring in the prosecution of the work. The firemen, too, despite their \$9 a month, worked like men who were receiving \$90, and were ably seconded by Mr. D. Macdonald, the Brigade engineer, who stood by all night.

It should be mentioned that the Naval Yard Brigade, 100 strong, with two engines, turned out when the alarm was given, but their services were for some reason or other not requisitioned.

FIRE ON THE "TINGSANG."

About 1.30 p.m. on the 19th inst. fire broke out on board the s.s. *Tingsang* (Indo-China Steam Navigation Co.), which was lying in the Harbour almost opposite Blake Pier. The *Tingsang* arrived from Taku and Chefoo on the 18th inst. carrying a general cargo, and the work of discharging had just been begun when the fire occurred. It was in one of the two after holds that the outbreak took place. Both were involved as the flames gathered strength. As soon as the alarm was raised, the steamer's siren was blown continuously and distress signals were hoisted. In answer to the call, a squad of men from H.M.S. *Terrible* was promptly despatched to the distressed vessel on boats fitted with manual pumps, these being towed over by a torpedo-boat. The Fire Brigade floater was also in prompt attendance, followed by the powerful Naval fire-boat, the *Cherub*. By this time the flames had got a good hold of the contents of the holds—these comprising vermicelli, samshu, nuts, almonds, etc. But the numerous streams of water which the big army of helpers was able to throw into the seat of the fire soon had the effect of staying the flames. Clouds of smoke issued from the hatches and attracted the eyes of many hundreds of spectators along the Praya front and on the shipping in the Harbour. As viewed from the shore, indeed, the dense smoke rising from the ship made it appear as though the fire was of more magnitude and seriousness than was actually the case. The first outside aid—that from the *Terrible*—arrived shortly before two o'clock; at half-past three the flames had been entirely flooded out. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the Fire Brigade, the bluejackets and the captain and officers of the ship for the manner in which they one and all worked in subduing the flames. To get at the seat of the conflagration it was necessary to remove a large portion of the cargo—heavy bales, etc.—from the holds, and this arduous work entailed the most trying exertions on the part of all concerned. Owing to the fact that the disastrous fire in Queen's Road still required the attendance of the local Brigade, only a comparatively small squad was detailed off to board the *Tingsang*, but they did yeoman service. Mr. A. Mackie, Acting

Deputy Captain Superintendent of Police, was in charge; and Mr. D. Macdonald, the engineer, was also present and rendered valuable assistance. In plying the hose and manning the pumps, the bluejackets worked untiringly, and it should be mentioned that a squad of Indian seamen from the Royal Indian Marine transport *Clive* came alongside and lent a hand at the manual pumps. The Hon. R. Murray Rumsey, Harbour Master, was on board until the fire was got under and took a prominent and energetic part in directing the operations of the men, as did also Commodore C. G. Robinson of the Naval Yard and Commander (N) G. W. W. Dawes. The *Cherub* was under the charge of Mr. T. McCarthy. Captain W. E. Sawyer, the master, and his officers alike spared no pains in the work of combating the fire. As to the damage done, it is impossible yet to assess its extent; meantime it would appear that most of the loss will be found to have been caused by water. As a result of the immense amount of water being thrown into the holds, the ship settled down somewhat aft and took on a considerable list to port. There is not any official account of how the fire originated. It is supposed, however, that one of the Chinese who were discharging the cargo lit a match in the hold at a place where a jar of samshu had been broken, and that either the fumes of the spirit or the spirit itself thus became ignited.

THE MANCHURIAN CONVENTION.

The Russian *Official Messenger* publishes the following text of the Manchurian Convention, signed at Peking on April 8:—

The Emperors of Russia and China, with the object of restoring and strengthening the relations and good neighbourship interrupted by the outbreak of 1900, named as plenipotentiaries M. Lessar, Prince Ching, and Wang Wen-shao to agree as to certain questions concerning Manchuria, who agreed to the following stipulations:—

Article 1.—The Emperor of Russia, desirous of giving a new proof of his love of peace and sentiments of friendship for the Emperor of China, notwithstanding that from different points of Manchuria along the frontier first attacks were made against the peaceful Russian population, consents to the re-establishment of Chinese authority in Manchuria, which remains an integral portion of the Chinese Empire, and restores to China the right to exercise sovereign and administrative powers as before the occupation by Russian troops.

Article 2.—On resuming possession of sovereign and administrative powers in Manchuria the Chinese Government confirms, both as regards the periods of time as all the other articles, and undertakes strictly to observe the stipulations of the contract with the Russo-Chinese Bank of Aug. 27, 1896: and in conformity with Article 5 of the said contract guarantees to protect in every way the railway and staff, safeguarding all Russian subjects living in Manchuria, together with the enterprises established by them. Russia, in view of this obligation assumed by China, consents on its part, in the event of there being no trouble whatsoever (*n'y aura pas de trouble quelconque*) and if the conduct of other Powers should not interpose any obstacle thereto, to withdraw gradually all Russian troops from Manchuria as follows:—(a) Within six months from the signing of the Convention, from the south-western portion of Moukden province as far as the Liao River, at the same time restoring the railway to China; (b) during the six months following, from the remaining portion of Moukden province and Kirin province; (c) during the six months following Russia will withdraw her troops from the remaining province of Hehlung-kiang.

Article 3.—To prevent a future repetition of the disturbances of 1900, in which the Chinese troops stationed in the provinces contiguous with Russia took part, the two Governments undertake, so long as the Russian troops are not withdrawn, to instruct their respective military authorities to agree together in order to fix the number and determine the military stations of the Chinese troops in Manchuria. China agrees not to increase the number beyond that arranged, which ought to be sufficient to exterminate the brigands and

pacify the country. After complete evacuation by the Russian troops, China will have the right to consider whether the number should be increased or diminished and will duly inform Russia, for it is self-evident that the maintenance of an excessive number of Chinese troops in Manchuria would necessitate an augmentation of Russian troops in the adjacent districts, causing an increase of military expenditure to the great disadvantage of the two countries. For the service of police and the maintenance of order in the interior outside the territory ceded to the Chinese Eastern Railway Company the provincial military Governors may raise a Chinese *gendarmerie*, mounted and foot, exclusively consisting of Chinese subjects.

Article 4.—Russia consents to restore the Shanhaikwan-Newchwang-Siuminting Railway, which, since the end of September, 1900, has been occupied and guarded by Russian troops, provided—

(1) China will undertake the sole responsibility of guarding the railway and not invite any other Power to undertake or take part in the defence, construction, or working of the railway, nor permit any foreign Power to occupy the territory restored by Russia.

(2) The above railway shall be completed and worked according to the agreement between Russia and England of April 16, 1899, and according to the railway contract with a private company of Sept. 28, 1898, China strictly observing the obligations of the company not to take possession of this railway, nor to part with it in any way whatsoever.

(3) If China should seek to extend the railways in South Manchuria or to construct branch lines, or to build a bridge across the Liao, or to transfer the Shanhaikwan railway station from its present site, this shall be done after a previous understanding between the two Governments.

(4) In view of the fact that the expense incurred by Russia in the restoration and working of the railway is not included in the indemnity, China shall reimburse Russia, the amount to be arranged between the two Governments.

The stipulations of previous treaties not modified in the present Convention remain in full force. The present Convention shall have legal force from the day of signature and the ratifications shall be exchanged in St. Petersburg within three months. The Convention is drawn up in Russian, Chinese, and French, the French text being authoritative.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN BURKE, C.B.

Our London correspondent telegraphed to us on the 17th inst.:—Captain Burke, of H.M.S. *Orlando*, has died at sea.

The news of the death of Captain Burke will be received with deep regret in this Colony, where he was most deservedly popular. Captain James Henry Thomas Burke, C.B., was born on the 28th March, 1853, and entered the Navy in 1866. He attained to the rank of Captain on the 1st January, 1894. He took command of H.M.S. *Orlando* in February, 1899, and in 1900 was up north in the midst of the fighting. The *Orlando* took no part in the bombardment of the Taku Forts, being engaged in preparing to take a detachment of the First Chinese Regiment from Weihaiwei to Taku. However, Captain Burke got his chance at Tientsin, where he arrived in time to help in leading temporarily the British naval contingent early in June, while Admiral Seymour was cut off. The work consisted chiefly of reconnaissances. As will be remembered, most admirable was the performance of the naval brigade, officers and men alike, and Captains Bayly, Burke, and Craddock, commanding at various times, covered themselves with glory. After the return of Admiral Seymour, the siege of Tientsin kept the defenders busily employed. Captain Burke was then put in command of the naval contingent, while Captain Bayly was commandant of Tientsin. In the capture of the native city on the 13th-14th July, Captain Burke was at the head of the British naval force, which had a large share in the attack. For the part he played in the North China operations in 1900, Captain Burke received his C.B. His death is a great loss to the British

Navy, which loses a most gallant officer, and the circumstance of its occurring at sea, after his ship had been relieved on this station, makes it additionally pathetic. It is surmised by his friends that the deceased may have succumbed to an attack of apoplexy.

ALLEGED BOXER PROPAGANDA IN HONAN.

The Boxers of Honan province, evidently depending upon the well-known sympathy of Hsi Liang (Manchu), Governor of that province, he having been a strong partisan of the notorious Prince Tuan and intimate friend of the late sanguinary Yu Hsien, the bloodthirsty Governor of Shansi in 1900, have, according to a Kaifeng (capital of Honan) despatch, again begun to revive in that province their Boxer, or "Great Sword" Society propaganda—for the Boxers are only an offshoot of the Great Swords of Northern Kiangsu province. This Boxer propaganda was begun in the sub-perfectual city of Kwangchou, Honan, in the early portion of March last, and gradually spread until the common people of the four hsien belonging to that sub-prefecture, namely, Kuangshanhsien, Kushihsien, Hsihsien, and Shangchenghsien, are now almost all proselytes of the Boxer headmen who have been daily holding numerous attended *stances*, or meetings, for the past three months or so, initiating their disciples and teaching them how to become "invulnerable" to the bullets and swords of the Western Barbarians. Now all the above has been an open secret in Kaifeng for nearly two months and Governor Hsi Liang was amongst the very first to know it, yet he did nothing to stop it, or show his disapproval of the propaganda. Evidently Hsi Liang thought that Honan was too far away from the coast or Yangtze for foreigners to hear of the Boxer movement in his province, but he was soon brought to think otherwise by receiving the following telegraphic despatch in the middle of April last from Viceroy Chang Chih-tung at Wuchang:—"I have received a despatch from the British Consul at Hankow, stating that he has heard that the people of the four districts of Kwangchou, and thence northward to Chouckchiakou are practising Boxer antics and that the people teaching them are mostly members of the Great Sword Society, or *Tatao Hui*. Further that, although the sub-prefect of Kwangchou knows of this state of affairs, he dare not interfere, while, on the other hand, the gentry and *literati* stand aside and look on, making an excuse, that they will do nothing because of the prohibition in force forbidding literary examinations in their cities. Besides this the Consular despatch goes on to state, the rumour that people's eyes are being gouged out for medicinal purposes, is again being universally spread about in the south eastern portions of the same province. As, unless this be stopped, there may again rise up serious disturbances the British Consul asks me (Viceroy Chang Chih-tung) to request that Your Excellency (Governor Hsi Liang) issue strict orders to put a stop to this revolutionary movement as soon as possible."—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *Japan Advertiser* says:—The day of Yokohama as a favourite rendezvous for the American warships seems to be returning, and there is hope of making the Asiatic station once more a post of assignment eagerly sought after. For a time after the Battle of Manila Bay there was much mourning in American naval circles over the probably permanent transference of operations to that quarter, whose climate and social conditions threatened to make dull music for those who had been accustomed to the gaieties of the treaty ports of Japan. Recently, however, as we have been told by one high in authority, it has become probable that owing to the great increase in the American naval force in Asiatic waters, combined with the necessity for recruiting the health of officers and crews suffering from the enervating effects of the southern climate, Yokohama and Kobe will seldom hereafter be without some representatives of the American Asiatic fleet. It is needless to say that always, as in the past, they will have the heartiest welcome here.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 17th May.

THE FAYUEN CULPRITS.

The case in which a certain Yü A Fuk charged with burning or otherwise destroying a German Mission House in the district of Fayuen was tried before the *weiyin* of the Kwong Fu prefecture. In spite of his total denial of the commission of the offence, evidence went to show that he was one of the culprits. As he was not alone concerned in the crime orders were given for the arrest of his comrades, so as to try them together.

A DISAPPOINTED GENERAL.

General Ha Yuk Sow was appointed by Imperial order to take command of the garrisons in Kwangsi, and was going to take up his post; but on arriving at Canton he heard that the order had been reversed, and So Yui Chou reinstated in his place. Ha Yuk Sow was very much disappointed, and did not wish to proceed to Kwangsi. He is staying in Canton and the other day was invited by General Ho Cheong Ching, who is in command of the Bogue Forts, to see the drill. They went by the gunboat *Kwang Ching* to the Yü chü, Wang-Tong, Taikok, Shokok, and others forts to see the gun practice, shooting at targets, and the drilling with foreign arms, after which General Ha Yuk Sow stopped with General Ho Cheong Ching in Bogue Fort for several days.

EXAMINATION REFORM.

It is customary that at the annual literary examination in the district of Nam Hoi there should be over four thousand students, but this year there was only one half this number on account of the Patku essay on the old system being done away with, and the rest of the students have gone to schools to learn English.

A BENEFICENT GIFT FOR EDUCATION.

The Viceroy has given orders to the authorities in all the districts to open English schools, but as there were not sufficient funds to enable them to do so, a rich merchant of Swatow, by name Tai Yan In, who had amassed a great fortune in Singapore, has contributed \$100,000 towards the expenses of establishing schools and engaging teachers. The Acting Prefect Kung Sum Chan has contributed 5,000 taels, and all the reserved funds of joss-houses, the Temple of Horror, and native schools are to be paid over to schools for teaching English.

A QUESTION OF PIG.

As I wrote in my last letter, the officials of the Chau Heung Kuk would gladly take up any scheme that is likely to bring in money to pay the foreign indemnity. They propose to charge a *lekin* tax of ten cents on every pig that is killed in Canton. The butchers are not satisfied with this arrangement, and if the officials were to carry this measure into effect they would strike and deprive the people of their customary meat.

[FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 21st May.

DISEASE.

Cholera and plague are very rife in the towns and villages of the Delta. Dr. Anderson of Fatshan, who has just recovered, like his colleague, from an attack of cholera, reports that Fatshan is simply saturated with plague and he has never before seen the disease so bad in that city and in the surrounding country. Both diseases are very prevalent in the city of Canton and it is hoped that the plentiful supply of water from the recent rains will help to purge the place of these epidemics.

THE REBELLION.

In spite of the columns of graphic details which appeared in some of the Hongkong papers of the alleged wide-spread rebellion in Kwangsi, the officials at Canton, foreign and native, know very little about it, and do not hesitate to give their opinion that it is greatly exaggerated. They are in a position to get more reliable information from the scene of the affected districts than we are in Hongkong, yet the accounts published here from time to time of cities besieged and fierce battles are revelations to them. English naval officers doing

patrol duty in the Delta, who are careful to obtain as reliable information as possible from the interior of Kwangsi, consider that the rebellion has been grossly exaggerated. There is no doubt that certain self-dubbed reformers in Hongkong are chiefly responsible for this and hope that by so fanning the embers of this rising of pirates and discontented soldiery, and continually keeping the thing before the public that a serious rebellion will eventuate.

DEVELOPMENT.

Canton is showing signs of commercial development. On the Honan side of the river a considerable tract of land with a water frontage has been purchased by Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, and scores of workmen are busily employed on it. This firm intends to erect large rice godowns. On the opposite side and adjoining the handsome block of buildings owned by the German Mission, Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. have almost completed their offices and tank for the storage of kerosene. The French are also preparing to erect a large hospital on a piece of land given by the *hoppo*, which will have accommodation for eighty beds.

THE WEST RIVER.

Signs of activity are being displayed with regard to the West River. It is thought that Sir James Mackay is pressing the matter on the Chinese Government, and it is generally believed that in consequence the river will soon be opened to foreign trade in earnest, the present exasperating restrictions being removed.

OBSTRUCTIONS.

The Chinese are in several places busily engaged in reclaiming sections of the Canton River, and in parts the work will form serious obstacles to steamers making the journey from Hongkong to Canton. The attention of the Imperial Maritime Customs has been called to it and they have visited the scene with Chinese officials, with the idea of stopping the erection of any obstacles that are likely to interfere with the safe navigation of this important waterway. Apparently the authority of the Customs was insufficient, as the reclamation goes merrily on.

PEKING.

Peking, 5th May.

YUAN SHIKAI

returned to Paotingfu on 2nd May, after accompanying the Court to the Tung Ling. For some time past he has been busy recruiting additional men for his army, to make up for desertions (300 soldiers deserted during the trip to the Tombs), and to enable him to effectively police and control Tientsin native city, in view of its early rendition to the Chinese authorities.

RECRUITING.

Judging from the stories current as to the way the recruiting is done, the Viceroy has, apparently, been unfortunate in his choice of recruiting officers. Having selected their man, it being all the same to them whether he desires to enlist or not, they proceed to bleed him. If the victim desires to enlist, he has to pay the equivalent of a month's pay, to allay the recruiting officer's anxiety as to his physical fitness; but if, on the other hand, he has no wish for military service, he is told that he is just the man for the job, and in various ways is threatened into paying up in order to be left alone. It is reported that recruits, finding that in addition to drawing their pay they had to drill and get into condition, have taken a great dislike to military service, and there have been numerous desertions.

DISURBANCES IN CHIHLI.

For some weeks past rumours of disturbances in the south of Chihli have been current in the tea shops in Peking. It was reported that Yuan Shikai had received no less than six official despatches, from as many Hsien-officials in the prefecture of Shuntung stating that from two to three hundred Boxers had crossed the border from Shuntung and entered the Hsien city of Kuangtsung, seized the officials, attacked and defeated a band of Yuan's new recruits on the way to Paotingfu to join the army, and killed a Roman Catholic priest whom they met on the road, and were carrying his head, exposed on a pole, round the country side. They implored the Viceroy to send troops at once, as the rebels were growing in numbers and threatening to attack their cities. These rumours have been confirmed by a memorial

sent in to the Throne by Yuan Shikai, in which he states that he had already sent soldiers to the disturbed districts with orders to scatter the rebels and find the body of the murdered priest.

THE POINT OF VIEW

from which the peace-loving Chinaman in Peking looks upon these doings is interesting. He says that the people, in endeavouring to exterminate the foreigner and everything pertaining to his religion two years ago, were only obeying Imperial orders, and that having carried them out to the best of their ability they are now rewarded by having to pay enormous indemnities, the largest share of which very often goes to the very officials who were most active in seeing that the Imperial orders were obeyed. Not that the Chinaman objects to pay a fair indemnity for damages done; in every case where a just claim has been made he has paid willingly, but what he does object to, and rightly so, is the opportunity the official takes of filling his own pocket. In one case which came under my observation, the indemnity claimed was Tls. 2,000 but the official made the people pay Tls. 6,000 and appropriated the Tls. 4,000 for himself. This being so, how can it be wondered at if the Chinese, goaded to desperation, rise against such an unjust administration?

NONE OF THESE TROUBLES

seem to interfere with the Empress Dowager's pleasures. Since her return from the Hunting Park she has been making the time pass by in a round of theatrical entertainments; and not satisfied with the histrionic talent which Peking can supply, she has sent to Shanghai for the Irving of the Chinese stage, the well known Hsiao Chiao-tien.

THE VISIT OF MR. WILKINSON

to Peking on the indemnity question has been looked forward to with interest by all who are prospective recipients of the said indemnity. They are glad to find that they were not mistaken in the belief that the payment would be in sterling or the equivalent, as Mr. Wilkinson had given them to understand. The date and method of payment are not yet made known, but will probably be settled within a few days.

THE SPRING RACE MEETING

is to be held this week, and from all accounts it bids fair to be one of the most successful ever held in Peking.

A NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

One of the chief buildings of interest going on at present is the Catholic Church in the Legation quarter. This is being erected for the benefit of the large Catholic population, mostly military, resident there, and lies south of the New Club in what used to be called Custom's Street, but now figures as Thomann Strasse—*N.-C. Daily News*.

THE CHIHLI INSURRECTION.

The local mandarins received yesterday, says the *N.-C. Daily News* of the 13th inst., a telegram from Paoting dated night of the 12th inst., reporting several successes obtained by Viceroy Yuan's troops who had been sent to reinforce those defeated in the earlier part of the operations against the insurgents. The Viceregal reinforcements numbered 9,000 men, consisting of 6,000 infantry, 2,500 cavalry, a battery of field artillery, a mountain battery, and a detachment of sappers and miners. The last battle was on the 9th inst., in the vicinity of Nankunghsien, Ch'ichoufu prefecture, the insurgents in this battle numbering some 22,000 men, and Viceroy Yuan's troops nearly 12,000 of all arms. The fight lasted over seven hours. The insurgents left the security of their trenches and camps, which were protected by low mud walls, breast high, and marched out in line of battle as soon as they saw the distant, approaching troops. Then the former rushed forward bravely, but rashly, to the attack, but were stopped half way by a stream of bullets, shot and shell from the troops, who had halted and taken advantage of every cover at hand. Then there was a faltering in the insurgent ranks, who seeing a cavalry brigade deploying to take them on the flanks wavered, broke, and fled, making for their walled camps, but the cavalry was on them before half of them had got within 300 yards of shelter and a regular massacre ensued. Those who had got into their trenches and camps however, rallied, and by their fire drove off the cavalry and covered the retreat of their surviving comrades.

The cavalry having retired, the artillery soon made it too hot for the insurgents, who finally fled in confusion towards the South. The city of Nankunghsien which had been captured by the insurgents was then retaken by the Government troops. The insurgents made a very brave and desperate stand, their trenches being choked with dead and wounded before they would flee from the troops. The latter are now about to attack the insurgents of Kuang-tsunghsien.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the *P. & T. Times* of the 10th inst.:

The Italian reliefs reached the Bund yesterday morning at 11 o'clock in the lighter *Peh tang*.

The "Extension" police force now consists of one Indian sergeant and six constables, with two Chinese sergeants and twenty-five constables.

The Cogill and Sutton troupe at Shanhaikwan gave a scratch entertainment and took \$294 clear profit after paying expenses. The show was of course unique for the famous frontier town.

Colonel Chang Ch'an-fa, who led the attack on the Cathedral in Ching Chou, where over three thousand Roman Catholic converts were massacred in three days, has been promoted, and is now Commander-in-Chief in Hupei. We commend this appointment to the notice of the Ministers in Peking.

News was received in Peking on Tuesday this week that at a village one third of the way between Peking and Tungchow ten armed men were holding up the place and looting systematically. The men are said not to be Chinese. They have an interpreter and guide with them of the name of Wang-wei. The messengers sent in by the distressed villagers give most harrowing tales of the proceedings of these *canaille*.

A party of nine foreigners representing the engineers of the Peking Syndicate and the representatives of Messrs. S. Pearson & Co., Ltd., the constructors to the big Syndicate, left Tientsin on Wednesday afternoon for Taokao in Honan. They had a great send off from a large party of friends from the depot on the Russian Bund. Four more foreigners reached the Port just after the first party had left; these gentlemen will accompany Mr. T. J. Bourne in a day or two. Young Tientsin is probably aware their old friend, Mr. James Stewart, Junr., accompanies the party into the interior as interpreter and assistant to Mr. Reid, the chief mining engineer of the pioneers. The party proceeds by the Grand Canal and the Wei River.

Report, more or less credible, has it that there was a serious accident at Ning-yuen-chow, two-thirds of the way out from Shanhaikwan to Chin-chow, on Thursday. The statement is that a bridge collapsed under the rear of the train, and two Russians and four Chinese were killed, besides a considerable number badly hurt. We are disposed to think the above is correct, but we feel some doubts the news came down to Shanhaikwan by natives and they are often incapable of giving an account of a railway accident with accuracy in detail. For example, they said that the end of the train went through, and then pulled the front part of the train down on top of itself. This is all but a physical impossibility.

We note that the *Japan Mail* is the authority for the statement that the Japanese medal is to be given to all the foreign troops that fought side by side with the Japanese in North China in 1900. The spirit of this decision is truly admirable, but if the example is followed by the six European countries it may possibly end in ridicule. Seven medals for one campaign will, we think, make a record in the difficult art of military honorification; and even then we omit the austere republicans of America. We think our own suggestion a better one, viz., a seven or eight pointed international medal, each Power to be exempt from the charges incurred by giving it to its own soldiers. This would be a unique and highly valued decoration.

A skeleton programme has been adopted by the Coronation Celebration Committee at Kobe, including (1) a Church service in the morning; (2) a tiffin; (3) a children's fête in the afternoon; (4) illuminations and a promenade concert in the evening.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

PRIZE-FIRING ON THE "TERRIBLE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

H.M.S. *Terrible*, 20th May.

SIR,—Your account of the prize firing of this ship is, I think, a little likely to be misleading. You say that it is not as good as last year. The captain, in a notice that is put up on board this ship, states it is as good as, if not better than, that of last year. You do not mention the number of rounds that were fired and the hits made, and you do not mention that though the firing this year in point of quantity of hits is not as great as last year, that it is a record, and no other ship in the British Navy has ever touched it. On board we hoped for a higher percentage and should have had it, had not the captain insisted in carrying out the practice in such misty, rainy, and squally weather that the target was often almost undiscernible. However, the twelve 6-in. guns put on 66 hits out of 109 shots fired and this score up to date (barring our own) is a record, the nearest approach to it being the *Ocean* with 115 rounds, 64 hits; the *Mars* with 112 and 62; and the *Majestic* with 123 and 52, respectively. —Yours, etc.,

"THE DOTTER"

A PLEA FOR SECULAR THOUGHT

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 21st May.

SIR,—May I, through the medium of your paper, make the suggestion that a society be formed in Hongkong for the propagation of secular thought? Surely in this Colony there must be at least a few who are not content to abide by the religious and scientific superstition of our forefathers and who would be found willing to join in forming a society whose aim would be to promote the application of rational thought to the explanation of things and so bring nearer the glorious "Age of Reason." —Yours, etc.,

AGNOSTIC.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

22nd May.

SIR,—The good people of Hongkong are now happy because rain has come at last and a plentiful supply of water is to be expected. This is indeed a blessing at this time of the year, when water is indispensable both for bathing and general cleansing purposes, and judging by the force of the water running to waste down the streams and nullahs in different parts of the Colony, the reservoirs ought to be pretty full by this time. Residents at the Belilios Terraces are, however, debarred from participating in this general rejoicing, for in the midst of this abundance they have not a drop of water from their taps up to now, and have still to get water from outside sources. The reason why there is still no water at the Belilios Terraces is a wonder to me, and the only person on whom I can rely for an explanation is the Water Authority. Belilios Terraces are rather high up, but surely if people living up at the Peak can get water from their taps every morning I do not see why we cannot. I understand that not only at Belilios Terraces but even lower down, at Woodlands Terrace, people get no water. There is decidedly something radically wrong, which it behoves the Water Authority to enquire into. Perhaps after this bewailing from me (a ratepayer) the Water Authority—or perhaps H.E. the Acting Governor, who always has the interests of residents at heart—will see that we get at least enough water in the morning for our daily ablution and potable purposes. —Yours, etc.,

BELILIOS TERRACE RESIDENT.

In accordance with the Trees Preservation Ordinance, an additional rate of 4 per cent. per annum is to be levied on the villagers of Tai Hang in consequence of the destruction of trees in that place and its neighbourhood.

SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, 20th May.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GCOMMAN
(CHIEF JUSTICE.)

A SERIOUS CRIME.

Nand Singh, an Indian, was charged with having assaulted a Chinaman with intent to commit an unnatural crime.

He pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. F. W. White, E. Fischer, W. J. G. Whitley, A. V. da Silva, Y. M. do R. Xavier, David Benjamin, A. M. McDougall.

The Hon. A. G. Wise, Acting Attorney-General, conducted the prosecution, instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys, of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley.

After evidence had been given,

The jury returned an unanimous verdict of guilty.

Sentence of four years' hard labour was passed.

POST OFFICE SERVANT'S OFFENCE.

Ho Kau alias Ho Kai was charged with having on 22nd April, while employed in the Post Office, stolen and opened certain correspondence.

He pleaded not guilty, and the jury which had served in the foregoing case was re-sworn.

After hearing the evidence, the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

Sentence of three years' hard labour was passed.

The Court adjourned.

THE STAR FERRY CO., LIMITED.

The fourth annual general meeting of the Star Ferry Co., Ltd., was held on the 20th inst. at the Company's offices, No. 2, Connaught Road. Mr. N. A. Siebs (chairman) presided and others present were Messrs. D. M. Moses and A. J. Raymond (directors), Captain Clark, Messrs. J. J. L. Montiero, W. H. Ray, R. R. Roberts, T. H. Reid, J. Hooper, and E. Osborne (Secretary).

The SECRETARY having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been with you for some days I will, with your permission, take them as read. The result of the year's working has not been so profitable as we anticipated, and the net earnings were, you will see from the report, some \$4,000 less than the previous year. This was due in the first place to a falling off in traffic, the number of 1st and 2nd class passengers having decreased by 190,258, whilst 3rd class increased by only 195,313, and in the second place to the greater cost of running double-enders in place of the small, economical boats formerly employed. These double-enders are about three times the size of the old launches, they burn nearly twice as much coal, require larger crews, more stores, and are in every respect more expensive to work and maintain. Perhaps, gentlemen, we were a little previous in discarding the old boats, perhaps we should have done better to consider your dividends a little more and the public convenience a little less; but, acting as we did in providing a frequent, regular service of comfortable boats, we considered that, whilst giving the public better value for their money, we are also studying the interests of shareholders, and though, for the moment, results are not quite up to expectations, I still think we acted wisely, and for this reason, that had we continued with the former unsuitable boats we should probably not be in sole possession of the traffic to-day, and therefore, in building double-enders and thus forestalling opposition, I think we acted in your best interests. As to the raising of the first class fare from 10 to 15 cents, this was necessary to meet the increased expenditure and decreased revenue that I have already referred to, and as the rise only affects occasional, not regular, travellers, in that the latter by purchasing a punch-ticket can journey for 10 cents as formerly, we consider the change was justified by the circumstances. In regard to the accounts, the balance available for distribution would not permit of a 12

per cent. dividend if adequate provision were made for writing off, but in view of the fact that the current year's profits will be augmented by \$15,000 premium on new capital, which was called up to pay for the Polar Star, and that \$15,000 will be available for writing off, we feel that we may properly recommend the same dividend as last year. As regards future prospects, although the decrease in traffic which I have referred to and which was due principally to the withdrawal of troops and the absence of so many men-of-war at the docks, is disappointing, I think the continued growth of Kowloon gives promise of increase in the normal traffic; and having, we hope, reached the limit of our expenditure any increase that does take place will be all profit. If shareholders have any questions, I shall be glad to answer them to the best of my ability.

Mr. T. H. REID—I should like to ask one question, if I am in order. With regard to the subject of a fairway across the Harbour, perhaps the secretary will tell us if the Government has been approached on this matter and whether the Harbour Master holds out any prospect of a fairway being established between the two ferry-wharves from Hongkong to Kowloon. I believe the question was once referred to in one of the reports.

The SECRETARY—The Government has been written to and the Harbour Master been approached, and members of the Council, Mr. Chater and Mr. Bell Irving, have both approached the Government; we tried about a year ago to get this thing, but from what the Government tell us, there is not the slightest hope of our getting it. The Government will not move in the matter at all.

The CHAIRMAN—There being no further question, I beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

Captain CLARK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. W. H. RAY—I beg to move the appointment of Messrs. A. J. Raymond and D. M. Moses as directors and the re-appointment of Mr. Siebs

Mr. T. H. REID seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Captain CLARK—I beg to propose the re-election of Mr. Potts as auditor for the ensuing year.

Mr. J. HOOPER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow, and can be had on application.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the general managers for the year ending 31st December, 1901, for presentation to the shareholders at the seventeenth annual ordinary general meeting of the Company (since its registration) to be held at the offices of the Company on Friday, the 30th May, at 11 a.m.:

Gentlemen,—We beg to lay before you a statement of the Company's business, with a balance sheet for the year ending the 31st December, 1901.

The net profits of the Company for the twelve months under review, after paying all charges, including the salary of the general managers, and providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to ... \$104,774.46

To which has to be added the balance brought forward from the previous year ... 3,687.87

\$108,462.33

From this there has to be deducted—

General managers' commission of 5 per cent. on the net profits for the year as per Article 80 of the Company's Articles of Association \$5,238.72

Remuneration of consulting committee as per Article 92 ... 2,500.00

7,738.72

Leaving an available balance of ... \$100,723.61

We paid an interim dividend of 5 per cent. in December last, absorbing ... \$30,000.00

And we now propose to pay a further dividend of 6 per cent. (making 11 per cent. for the year), which will absorb ... \$36,000.00

To write off furniture, fittings, utensils of trade, cargo lighter, machinery, and building additions ... 30,000.00

To carry forward to 1902 account ... 4,723.61

100,723.61

\$100,723.61

The net profits for the year were increased by an amount of \$19,625.37 accruing from the sale of Section A of Kowloon Inland Lot No. 551 and Kowloon Inland Lot No. 551, and were decreased by an amount of \$6,247.96 extraordinary expenditure which we had to incur in connection with the plague outbreak last year.

The business of the Company generally continues to be of a satisfactory and progressive character, but the drop in sterling exchange that has taken place this year naturally tends to lessen profits.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

The existing committee consists of Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. C. Ewins, E. Osborne, and H. P. White.

AUDITOR.

The Company's accounts at the head office have been audited by Mr. Francis Maitland, who offers himself for re-election.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 17th May, 1902.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

31st December, 1901.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital account	\$600,000.00		
Permanent reserve fund	250,000.00		
Reserve fund to meet contingencies, or for the equalisation of dividends	25,000.00	875,000.00	
Local and general liabilities in the East	\$144,050.43		
Local and general liabilities in London	55,848.02	199,898.45	
Mortgage on section E of inland lot No. 19 and the buildings thereon	\$55,000.00		
Mortgage on marine lot No. 2 C and the buildings thereon	140,000.00	195,000.00	
Bills payable, Hongkong and Manila	168,605.22		
Unclaimed dividends	5,949.70		
Security deposits from staff	12,700.00		
Profit and loss, forward from 1900 ...	\$3,687.87		
Profit and loss, net balance, 1901	104,774.46		
	\$108,462.33		
Less interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid in December, 1901 \$30,000.00			
Less amount unclaimed at 31st December, 1901 ...	6,767.00	23,233.00	
		85,229.83	
		\$1,542,382.70	

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Total stocks in trade	1,041,810.37		
Good debts due from customers	184,445.06		
Good debts due from sundry debtors	21,484.53		
Cash in hand	\$16,416.83		
Cash at bankers	10,239.47	26,706.30	
Fire insurance premia unexpired		5,617.04	
Investments in public companies— North China Insurance Co., Limited Hong Fire Insurance Co., Limited		1,200.00	
Section E of inland lot No. 19 and the buildings thereon ...	\$60,000.00		
Marine lot No. 2 C and the buildings thereon	150,000.00		
Remaining portion of Kowloon inland lot No. 550 and the buildings being erected thereon	7,000.00		
San Jacinto land and buildings, Manila	31,234.51		
Property at Iloilo, Philippine Islands	12,834.64	261,119.15	
		\$1,542,382.70	

PROFIT AND LOSS.

Dr.	\$	c.
To balance	108,462.33	
	\$108,462.33	
CONTRA.		
Cr.	\$	c.
By balance forward from 1900	3,687.87	
By net profits in Hongkong, China, and Manila for 1901	104,774.46	
	\$108,462.33	

WATER RETURN.

LEVEL AND STORAGE OF WATER IN RESERVOIRS ON THE 1ST MAY.

LEVEL.	1901.	1902.
Below overflow. Below overflow.		
Tytam	67 ft. 5½ in.	86 ft. 11 in.
Pokfulam	25 ft. 9 in.	42 ft. 0 in.
Wongnaicheong	45 ft. 2½ in.	43 ft. 1½ in.
STORAGE GALLONS.		
	1901.	1902.
Tytam	36,900,000	8,920,000
Pokfulam	14,140,000	Nil
Wongnaicheong	—	259,000

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL.

	1901.	1902.
From usual sources	94,089,000	30,156,000 gallons
Imported by lighter from Tsun Wan	—	9,714,000 "
From Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's Reservoir	—	402,000 "

Total	40,272.00 gallons
Estimated population	211,500
Consumption per head per day	14.8

Intermittent supply	6.28 gallons
8th to 9th.	for the whole month.

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL.

	1901.	1902.
Consumption	12,166,000	8,075,000 gallons
Estimated population	29,200	65,650 "
Consumption per head per day	13.8	4.1 gallons
Intermittent supply	1st to 9th.	for the month.

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

W. CHATHAM,
Water Authority.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

"A" Machine Gun Co. held their monthly carbine competition at the Taihang Range on the 17th and 18th inst. Corpl. B. C. M. Johnston scored a win in both the No. 1 and 3 Cups. The No. 2 Cup, presented by Lieut. W. Nicholson, was won outright by Gunner C. H. P. Hay, who secured the best aggregate for three shoots. Spoons were won by Corpl. Johnston and Gunners Hay and Danby. The pool competitions resulted as follows:—

- 200 yards, Gunner Brown.
- 400 yards, Gunner Hay.
- 500 yards, Gunner Brown.

This was the last shoot for the No. 1 Cup presented last year by Mr. F. Maitland. It was won outright by Sergt. J. D. Danby who secured the most number of wins out of the series of twelve monthly competitions.

The following names are engraved on this Cup:—

April, Capt. E. D. Sanders.	Nov., Gunr. J. M. Bodier.
May, Gunner C. H. Blason.	Dec., Gunr. E. A. Irving.
June, Corpl. J. A. Plummer.	Feb., Sergt. J. D. Danby.
July, Gunr. W. S. Brown.	Mar., Gunr. Hursthouse.
Aug., Corpl. J. D. Danby.	April, Gunr. C. H. P. Hay.
Sept., Sergt. E. G. Barrett.	May, Gunner Johnston.

Alphonse Strebler, the capturer of the Filipino General Lukban, has been appointed a first lieutenant of artillery in the U.S. Army.

HONGKONG CHESS CLUB.

Owing to a delay in the receipt of Singapore's last move in each game (due possibly to the Whitsun holidays) the two cable games have not progressed so rapidly during the past fortnight. The scores now stand as under:—

White.	Black.	White.	Black.
(Singapore).	(Hongkong).	(Hongkong).	(Singapore).
1 P-K 4	P-K 4	1 P-K 4	P-K 4
2 P-K B 4	Pt. P	2 Kt-K B 3	Kt-Q B 3
3 Kt-K B 3	P-K Kt 4	3 B-Kt 5	Kt-B 3
4 P-K R 4	P-Kt 5	4 Castles	B-B 4
5 Kt-Kt 5	P-K R 3	5 Kt t. P	Kt t. Kt
6 Kt t. P	Kt t. Kt	6 P-Q 4	Q-K 2
7 P-Q 4	P-B 6	7 Pt. B.	Q t. P
8 P t. P	H-K 2	8 Kt-B 3	Castles
9 B-B 4 ch	P-Q 4	9 B-K 2	Q-K 2
10 B t. P ch	K-Kt 2	10 P-K B 4	Kt-B 3
11 Castles	P-Kt 6	11 P-K 5	

HONGKONG.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week were 220 non-Chinese and 77 Chinese to the former, and 72 non-Chinese and 1,534 Chinese to the latter institution.

The Rev. C. H. Hickling, recently of Withington, near Manchester, the pew minister of the Union Church, arrived by the s.s. *Sudo Maru* on the 20th inst. He is accompanied by Mrs. Hickling and Miss Hickling.

The return of stamp revenue for the months of April 1901 and 1902 shows a decrease in the latter month of \$4,903.53. Conveyance or assignment declined by \$4,806.45 and transfer of shares by \$4,153.60. On the other hand probate or letters of administration increased by \$3,253.

There were 46 feet of water in the Pokfulam reservoir on Monday afternoon. The supply must have been further replenished after the heavy rains of Monday night and Tuesday morning. On Monday afternoon two of the streams that feed the reservoir were still almost dry in spite of the heavy rainfall of last week.

An outbreak of fire occurred on the 21st inst. at the tenement, No. 219, Des Vœux Road West. The Fire Brigade under Mr. F. J. Badeley and Mr. A. Mackie turned out promptly, and were successful, despite the fact that their operations were hampered by lack of water, in confining the fire to the block in which it originated. This was completely gutted. The building was fully insured, the policies amounting to \$3,500.

It is disappointing to see that the Markets authorities have not upheld their Inspector's action in protesting against the unjustifiable raising of prices by the Chinese stallholders in the Central Market, as the price-list recently issued bears the official signature and yet shows the appreciation of prices upon which we commented last week and which has called forth plentiful complaint on the part of the public. It may be that the issue of the price-list even with its higher rates is regarded as being better than no issue at all for the guidance and protection of buyers, but it is to be hoped that the authorities will see to it that some method is arrived at whereby "squeezing" on the part of the vendors may be properly dealt with and checked.

It is with great regret that we learn that owing to the illness of the London Manager of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, the Bank has found it necessary to call upon Mr. Whitehead to undertake the duties at the head office temporarily. Mr. Whitehead will accordingly leave for London early in June. The probable length of his stay there is not known. Apart from the loss which the Colony will feel socially, there will be a serious blank left for the time, at least, which it will be almost impossible to supply. Mr. Whitehead has long been the popular representative on the Legislative Council, and practically alone has devoted himself to asking the necessary questions on public affairs without which the theory of popular representation is merely a farce in the Crown Colony system of government. At the present time Hongkong is at a most interesting and important juncture in its history, and we feel certain that it causes Mr. Whitehead sincere regret to be called away now. However, we trust that the loss will only be brief and that we shall see him back again before long to "heckle" the Government and defend the interests of the community.

Mr. E. B. Hallifax has been appointed Acting Registrar-General during the absence on leave of the Hon. A. W. Br. win.

Mr. T. H. Hamman has been recognised as Consul for Belgium, and Mr. C. Michela as Acting Consul for Denmark in Hongkong.

Mr. D. Wood has been appointed Acting Assessor during the absence on leave of Mr. A. Chapman (in command of the Coronation Contingent now on its way to England).

Commander F. W. Dan, R.N., has been appointed Naval Representative in the Wongnaicheong Recreation Ground Committee, vice Commander H. Orpen, R.N., resigned.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Siam Free Press* hears that the salary of Mr. Rivett-Carnac, Financial Adviser and Comptroller-General to the Siamese Government, has been increased to £4,000 a year since his appointment as Legal Adviser to the Siamese Government.

The agent of a Kobe steamer has received a telegram stating that the ship has been quarantined for a week at Dalny on an allegation by the authorities there that Kobe is infected with plague. The Captain showed that he had a clean bill of health issued by the Russian Consul, but without avail. The steamer left Kobe on the 5th inst. for Talienwan.

Definite particulars of a terrible disaster to Japanese fishing boats have now been received. On the 30th of April 122 boats, containing 1,355 fishermen, put out on a fishing expedition from the islands of Teuri and Yajiri after an immense swarm of herrings. A storm occurred, and the boats were more or less damaged by the high seas running, seventy of them being wrecked, and 220 men perishing. Up to the 7th inst. 192 bodies had been recovered.

Great Britain and Germany, says a Washington despatch, have strongly protested against that portion of the Philippines Tariff Act which authorises a rebate of a portion of the export duties on Philippine products when they are imported into the United States. The great matter of complaint is hemp. The protests have been referred to the War Department, which controls the Philippines. Officials are somewhat embarrassed as to the course they should adopt as the provision for the rebate is now law. It is, therefore, probable that the protesting parties will have to find relief in the Courts.

The author of an anonymously published work which we reviewed in these columns recently, *The Garden of Kama, and other Love Lyrics from India* (London, Wm. Heinemann) turns out to be Mr. Nicholson, wife of the specially distinguished General Malcolm Nicholson of the Bombay Staff Corps, whose last employment in India was the command at Mhow. General Nicholson's reckless feats of personal daring are a sort of legend throughout Western India and Sind. He it was who once ran across the Crocodile Pond at Karachi on the backs of the monsters; he used to amuse himself on the top of a high clock tower at the same place by jumping the wide intervals in the topmost parapet. Yet General Nicholson left India without its being suspected that he had in the lady at his side a poetess who could aspire to interpret the passion of the East, as Mrs. Nicholson most undoubtedly does.

According to the *Korea Review*, the state of the famine-stricken districts of the province of Whang-ha is deplorable. Yunan is perhaps the worst afflicted, for out of five thousand houses two thousand are empty, and "scores of drop-sical sufferers on the verge of starvation are lying beside the roads." In spite of this the officials command the people to hand over their money (as taxes), and they have been driven to appeal to the Home Department for clemency. In the Kyo-ha district the state of the people is reported to be more desperate still. Driven by hunger, they began to pull bark from trees near a royal tomb and to eat it. The tomb-keeper protested, but the people replied that they might as well die that way as any other. Under one tree the keeper found five dead bodies. An official in Chung Chung Province reports that in the town of Im-chinn a family suffering from starvation have been driven to eating the bodies of two of their younger children.

The first of the 500 new Japanese public rickshaws which are to be placed on the streets of Manila commenced plying on the 16th instant. The former means of locomotion was the carromata. Ten cents (Mexican) is the charge for 15 minutes' service. Chinese are to be employed as pullers.

The total number of cases of cholera in Manila reported up till 8 a.m. on 13th current was 960, with 769 deaths. The number of cases occurring in the provinces up till that time was 2,888, with 2,092 deaths. During the 24 hours ended at 8 a.m. on the 13th there were notified in the city 24 cases with 16 deaths.

The expenditure for the construction of a laboratory for the study of the bacteria of plague having been approved by the Kobe Municipal Assembly, the building will be commenced shortly. The cost is estimated at 1,375 yen, and the work will probably be completed before the end of next month.

The old offices of the Chinese Railway Administration at Shanghai, hitherto the meeting place of the British and Chinese Tariff Commissioners, having now been leased to an Italian merchant, it has been decided to use, for the future, one of the large rooms in the Bureau of Foreign Affairs, on the Bubbling Well Road, for that purpose.

A case of plague is reported from Nagasaki. A native of Gifu arrived in Nagasaki on the 7th inst. from Formosa by the *Taichu Maru*. He was supposed to be suffering from malarial fever but the case was certified to be one of plague on the 12th inst. and the patient was immediately removed to the local isolation hospital. The patient succumbed early on the 13th.

It is stated on good authority, says the Tokyo correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News*, that the new programme of Japanese naval expansion for six years commencing in 1904, comprises four battle-ships each of 15,000 tons; two armoured cruisers each of 9,900 tons; four second-class cruisers each of 5,000 tons, fifteen destroyers, and fifty torpedo-boats. The nation is evidently prepared to endorse this programme.

The mortality returns for Singapore for the week ended May 3, show 416 deaths with a ratio per mille of population of 92.02. Fever heads the list as causing 113 deaths; cholera caused 84 and beri-beri 31. The female deaths are 61 as compared 355 male. More than half the number of deaths occurred to persons between the ages of 25 and 45. The death-rates for the weeks ending the 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th instant show a steady and substantial increase in each week, being 50.87, 55.08, 55.74 and 79.19, respectively, whilst deaths from cholera are shown as being 21.27 and 52.

The general managers of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., inform us they are advised by the head office that the general meeting of shareholders is fixed for the 23rd instant, at which it will be proposed to declare a final dividend of six per cent. (making 10 per cent. for 1901) and to add £30,000 to the reserve fund, carrying forward a balance of £17,657. Underwriting account has been increased to £232,350, and exchange reserve reduced to £870, the rate of 1s. 8d. per dollar having been taken for the adjustment of accounts. A resolution will be brought forward at the meeting giving power to the company to issue as may be necessary, up to 50,000 five per cent. cumulative preference shares for the purpose of providing funds for the purchase of new steamers.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 10th May.—The deficit in the first crop proves to be larger than anticipated and is now estimated at 70 to 75 per cent. Owing to the dry, hot weather, the first reelings are of considerably better quality than is usual in this season. The second crop will also suffer by the protracted drought, but to what extent cannot yet be ascertained. Settlements in new season's silk are still very moderate, dealers being unwilling to make forward contracts on any large scale, owing to the uncertainty on the native markets in the interior. Prices are very firm with an upward tendency. Waste.—The market has fallen quiet with very little doing. Prices are firm, though nominal, and stocks are small.

CAMPOR.

HONGKONG, 23rd May.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 23rd May.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported.

Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.25 to \$8.30	pcd.
do. " 2, White.....	7.10 to 7.08	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ...	5.93 to 5.98	"
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.90 to 5.95	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.15 to 8.20	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	6.95 to 7.00	"
do. " 1, Brown ...	5.85 to 5.90	"
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.71 to 5.75	"
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	12.05 to 12.10	"
Shekloong "	9.90 to 9.95	"

RICE.

HONGKONG, 23rd May.—The downward tendency continues, market being dull. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$3.05 to 3.10
" Round, Good quality	3.90 to 3.95
" Long	4.05 to 4.10
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	3.30 to 3.35
" Garden, " No. 1	3.70 to 3.75
" White.....	4.10 to 4.15
" Fine Cargo	4.25 to 4.30

OPIUM.

HONGKONG 23rd May.—Malwa.—About 100 chests changed hands at—

New	\$910/1,000
Older	1,020.

Bengal.—Business was brisk during the first week of the fortnight under review. Sales were made in Patna at \$890 for High Numbers and \$887½ for Low Numbers. Benares at \$880. Since a quieter feeling prevailed and market closes at the following quotations:—

High Numbers at \$887½
Low " " 885
Benares " " 877½

Persian.—Superior quality was sold at \$570. Inferior quality for shipment to Singapore is quoted at \$350/60.

Stock on date:—

Patna Benares Malwa Persian
2,468½ 653 392½ 2,892½

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 23rd May.—Extremely dull market prevailed and only a small parcel was put through at almost previous quotations. Stock, about 10,000 bales.

Bombay,	21.00 to 23.00	piculs
Bengal (New), Rangoon,	22.00 to 24.50	"
and Dacca,	29.00 to 30.00	"
Shanghai and Japanese,	29.00 to 30.00	"
Tungchow and Ningpo,	29.00 to 30.00	"

Sale: 110 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 23rd May:—Very little demand has been experienced during the past fortnight and business has been much quieter; the offtake falling considerably below the average of the previous four weeks. The few bales, advised as sold, are of a retail character, and cannot be accepted as indicating market values, and although prices show here and there some fluctuations, we make no alteration in our quotations, which for the time being may be considered more or less irregular and unsteady. The immediate causes of this falling off are to be found in the rapid forcing up of prices in the interior by native dealers, the disturbed state of the consuming centres, and the recent slump in the Shanghai and Northern markets. Buyers do not believe in present prices and anticipating a much lower range of values later on, continue to hold aloof. Importers, meanwhile, are becoming very anxious, but looking at the paucity of present stocks both in first and second hands, the moderate scale of supplies, higher prices ruling in Bombay, and uncertainty of exchange, there is no apparent cause for alarm unless a sudden and unexpected influx of goods inundates us from Shanghai.

Local Manufacture—Spinners are firm in their demand at last quotations, but no business is being done.

Japanese Yarn.—No supplies and nothing doing. Resales amongst native dealers on the basis of \$124 to \$125 for Settsu No. 20s. are reported.

Raw Cotton:—Locally our market for Indian descriptions has been dull and depressed, sellers have been most anxious to realize but meet with little encouragement either from exporters to Japan or native dealers; the only business reported during the interval being some 375 bales Super-fine Bengal purchased by our local Mill at \$22½,

leaving a stock of about 10,000 bales on the market. Again no business is reported in China Cotton. Quotations are Bengal \$20 to \$23, Dacca \$22 to \$25 and China \$27 to \$30.

Exchange on India closes to-day at Rs. 129 for T/T and Rs. 129½ for Port. On Shanghai 74 and on Yokohama 18 per cent. premium.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended 17th instant, viz:—

Indian.—Market almost at a standstill owing to increased firmness of holders. Total sales about 600 bales or about previous quotations. Estimated unsold stock about 30,000 bales.

Japanese:—Total sales about 150 bales on the basis of Tls. 87½ to 94 for No. 16s. and Tls. 92 to 98 for No. 20s., prices continuing unchanged.

Local:—In some enquiry at slightly firmer rates, but sales amount to only 300 bales at Tls. 86½ for No. 14s. and Tls. 88½ for No. 16s.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Dardanus* sailed on the 15th April For London:—102 cases Chinaware, 48 cases blackwoodware, 2 cases cigars, 9 cases private effects, 25 cases cassia, 25 bales cassia, 78 bales canes, 160 magway, 201 bales waste silk, 12 bags coal, 12 pkgs. rattan chairs, 12 pkgs. sundries. For Glasgow:—6 cases blackwoodware.

Per steamer *Yarra* sailed on the 21st April. For Marseilles:—149 bales raw silk, 100 bales waste silk, 15 cases silks, 8 cases hair, 24 cases effects, 3 cases feathers, 10 cases furniture, 85 rolls matting. For Lyons:—593 bales raw silk. For Milan:—5 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Maristow* sailed on the 30th April. For New York:—259 bales rattan chair, 228 bales canes, 100 bales split bamboo, 200 bales cassia, 104 pkgs Chinaware, 251 casks preserves, 210 casks ginger, 145 cases blackwoodware, 150 cases gallnuts, 15 cases bristles, 67 bales bambooware, 62 pkgs. fireworks, 23 cases straw cuffs, 25 casks soy, 25 pks. star aniseed, 76 cases H. H. goods, 7 cases human hair, 258½ pkgs. merchandise.

Per P. & O. steamer *Candia*, sailed on the 1st May. For London:—500 bales hemp, from Manila 115 boxes tea, from Foochow, 872 pkgs. firecrackers, 1 case cigars, 15 cases woodware, 72 cases Chinaware, 2 cases private effects, 20 cases essential oil.

Per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, sailed 10th May. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For London opt. Manchester:—108 bales waste silk. For London:—10 bales raw silk, 150 bales waste silk, 4 cases silk, 2,168 boxes tea from Foochow, 175 boxes tea from Canton, 71 cases bristles, 5 cases hair, 2 cases bird feathers, 2 cases bird skin, 1 chest opium. For Lyons:—203 bales raw silk, 1 chest silks. For Marseilles:—195 bales raw silk, 25 cases hair, 4 cases feathers.

COALS.

HONGKONG, 23rd May.—The market has continued very dull for some time past; rates are purely nominal.

Cardiff.....	\$18.50 to 19.00,	ship, nominal
Australian	\$11.00	nominal
Yubari Lump	\$12.00 to 12.50	ex godown nominal
Miki Lump.....	\$10.00	ex ship, nominal
Moji Lump	\$7.00 to \$9.50	ex ship, quiet
Hongay double	10.50	ex godown
screened		
Hongay Lump.....	8.50	ex ship
Hongay Dust	6.00	"
Briquettes	16.00	"

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 23rd May.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn: 150 bales No. 8 at \$84, 50 bales No. 8 at \$80, 1,300 bales No. 10 at \$90 to \$98, 950 bales No. 12 at \$96 to \$101, 250 bales No. 16 at \$107 to \$115, 1,050 bales No. 20 at \$112 to \$122.

METAL.—Tinplates: 500 cases at \$9.30 to arrive. Quicksilver: 50 flasks at \$187.50 to arrive. Wire Nails: 1,000 casks at \$6.20 to arrive.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$34.00 to \$125.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 125.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00
COTTON PIECE GOODS—	
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.30
7 lbs.	2.35 to 2.60
8.4 lbs.	3.10 to 3.65
9 to 10 lbs.	3.80 to 4.60

White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.80	to	2.90
58 to 60 "	3.25	to	4.40
64 to 66 "	4.50	to	5.30
Fine.....	5.50	to	7.75
Book-folds	4.50	to	6.95
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.75	to	1.40
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.85	to	2.10
7lbs. (32 ")	2.15	to	2.45
6lbs. (32 ")	2.20	to	2.35
7lbs. (32 ")	2.95	to	3.50
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.20	to	3.70
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14 lbs.	4.20	to	6.90
FANCY COTTONS—			
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5 lbs	1.65	to	5.50
Brocades—Dyed	—	to	—
DAMASKS—			
Chintzes—Assorted	0.18	to	0.20
Velvets—Black 22 in.	0.28	to	0.75
Velvetens—18 in.	0.23	to	0.90
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.30	to	3.00
WOOLLENS—			
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.65	to	2.00
German	1.25	to	3.00
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25	to	3.00
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.50	to	8.50
Assorted	6.60	to	8.65
Camlets—Assorted	12.00	to	32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches	12.00	to	16.00
Assorted	8.00	to	9.50
Orleans—Plain	8.00	to	9.50
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.00	to	9.00
METALS—			
Iron—Nail Rod	4.65	to	—
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.	4.70	to	—
Swedish Bar	4.80	to	—
Small Round Rod	5.20	to	—
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	6.40	to	—
Wire, 16/25,	9.00	to	—
Old Wire Rope	2.60	to	—
Pig Iron	35.50	to	36.50
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.50	to	—
Australian	8.50	to	—
METALS—			
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	40.00	to	—
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	40.00	to	—
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	40.00	to	—
Composition Nails	61.00	to	—
Japan Copper, Slabs	39.00	to	—
Tin	90.00	to	—
Tin-Plates	8.40	to	—
Steel ½ to 1	5.90	to	—
SUNDRIES—			
Quicksilver	185.00	to	—
Window Glass	6.10	to	—
Kerosene Oil	2.10	to	—

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 23rd May.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/8½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.17
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.21
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.76½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	42½
Credits, 60 days' sight	42½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	129½
Bank, on demand	129½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	129½
Bank, on demand	129½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74
Private, 90 days' sight	74½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	18 p.c. pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	½ p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	104½

ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	½ p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	60½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	11.47
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	60 30
BAR SILVER per oz.	24

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Hitachi Maru (str.).	
FOR LONDON.—Ballaarat (str.), Glaucus (str.), Ben Lomond (str.), Agamemnon (str.), Stentor (str.), Alcinous (str.), Moyune (str.), Hitachi Maru (str.), Socotra (str.).	
FOR LIVERPOOL.—Deucalion (str.).	
FOR MARSEILLES.—Laos (str.), Hitachi Maru (str.), Socotra (str.).	
FOR BREMEN.—Prinz R. Luitpold (str.).	
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Sambia (str.), Serbia (str.), Suevia (str.), Strassburg (str.), Silesia (str.).	
FOR TRIESTE.—Austria (str.).	
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Victoria (str.), Ryojun Maru (str.).	
FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.), Tartar (str.).	
FOR NEW YORK.—Spithead (str.), Mogul (str.).	
FOR PORTLAND (Or.).—Indrasamha (str.).	
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Changsha (str.), Kasuga Maru (str.), Guthrie (str.).	
FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—Mika Maru (str.).	
FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—Arratoon Apcur (str.).	
FOR SINGAPORE AND BOMBAY.—Tientsin (str.).	

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 23rd May.—The general stagnation in our market has continued during the week under review, and there is again but little business to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been placed in small lots at \$590, and are further enquired for at the rate. London still quotes £63.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have undergone no change, and can still be placed in small lots at \$590. China Traders are easier with sellers at \$57, and somewhat less would probably result in business. Yangtszes continue in demand, and can be placed at \$125. Cantons are steady at \$170.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires are neglected at \$330. Chinas have sold at \$80, and are further on offer.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been placed at \$38½. Indo-Chinas under a disappointing final dividend of 6 per cent., as against 10 per cent. last year, have receded to \$126 at which, however, there are some buyers. Douglas has sold at \$43½ and \$44, and are wanted at the higher rate. Star Ferries are on offer at \$20½ (old) and \$11½ (new) ex the dividend of 12 per cent. paid on the 24th instant. Shell Transports have been sold at £1. 12s. 6d. and £1. 15s. 6d. and continue in request at the latter figure.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are lower at \$116 with sales. Luzons continue on offer at \$25.

MINING.—Punjoms have eased off to \$5½ sellers. Charbonnages can be placed at \$600. Jebebus have receded to \$2 with sellers. Raubs after sales at \$9 are offering at the quotation.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are still out of favour and on offer at \$240. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have declined to \$87 sellers. New Amoy Docks continue in request at \$35.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands after sales at \$177½ have eased off, and can now be bought at \$175. Kowloon Lands and West Points are unaltered and without business. Hongkong Hotels are obtainable at \$139 and Orientes at \$50. Humphreys Estates have sold at \$12 and are on further offer at the rate.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos are easier at Tls. 45 sellers. Hongkong Cottons have improved under renewed enquiries, to \$17 buyers.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have weakened and can now be obtained at \$21½. Watsons are quieter at \$15. Electrics (old) are still on offer at \$14, and the new shares can now be obtained at \$6½. Steam

Water-Boats have improved to \$8½ buyers. A small lot of United Asbestos (Founders) can be procured at \$200. China Providents have sold and are offering at \$9½. Watkins can be obtained at \$6½. Universal Traders are wanted at \$21.

MEMOS.—China Light and Power Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting to-morrow (Saturday), at 11 a.m. A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 30th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	{ \$590, buyers L'don, £63.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$27, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$27, buyers
Found. Shares	£1	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$21, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$25, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$15, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9½, sales & sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$116, sales
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$500, nominal.
Philippine Tobacco Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, sellers
Invest. Co., Ltd.		
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 45, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 45, sellers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150.
Hongkong	\$100	\$17, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$45½, buyers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$21½, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric Co.	\$10	\$14, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$5	\$6½, sellers
Hk. Steam Water Co., Ltd.	\$100	\$330, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$139, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$240, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$87, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$140, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$240, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$170.
China Fire	\$20	\$80, sales
China Traders	\$25	\$57, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$330.
North China	\$25	Tls. 181, buyers
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$390, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$125, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$175, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$12, sales & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$55, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$25, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$35, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$660.
Jebebu	\$5	\$2, sellers
Queen's Mines, Ltd.	25c.	nominal.
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	nominal.
Do. B.	\$4	nominal.
Punjom	\$10	\$5½, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$14, sellers
Raubs	18	\$9, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$35, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$50, sellers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9.
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$55.
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$37½, sellers
China Mutual Pref.	\$10	\$11. 10s., buyers
Do. Ordinary	\$7. 10	\$7. 10s., sellers
Do. Bonus	\$5	\$5, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$44, buyers
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$38½, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$126, buyers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	\$1	\$1. 15s., sales & bys.
Star Ferry	\$10	{ \$20½, ex d., sells. \$11½, ex d., sells.
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$1.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$200, sellers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$21, buyers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$6½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$15.

VERNON SMYTH, & Brokers.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 23rd May.—Since last report, freights have declined. Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents nominally; to one port Philippines, 26 to 27 cents according to size; to one port north coast Java, 28 cents per picul. Iloilo to Hongkong, 20 cents is obtainable for small carriers. Coal freights are firm. Moji to this, \$2.10; to Singapore, \$2.80 to \$3 per ton. Sailing vessels:—The British barque *Hamburg* has been chartered to load here for New York and the British barque *Forfarshire* for London, terms private. The following are the settlements:—

Forfarshire—British barque, 1,300 tons, Hongkong to London, private terms.

Hamburg—British barque, 1,649 tons, Hongkong to New York, private terms.

Esang—British steamer, 1,127 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents per picul.

Taiwan—British steamer, 1,109 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents per picul.

Fusang—British steamer, 1,410 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents per picul (20,000 piculs).

Bygdo—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents per picul (16,000 piculs).

Triumph—German steamer, 769 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents per picul (16,000 piculs).

Hermana Menzell—German steamer, 1,004 tons, Karatsu to Manila, \$4 per ton.

Hermes—Norwegian steamer, 849 tons, Moji to Manila, \$4 per ton.

Chelydra—British steamer, 1,567 tons, Moji to Saigon, \$3 per ton.

Kashing—British steamer, 1,158 tons, Moji to Saigon, \$3 per ton.

Tientsin—British steamer, 1,250 tons, Moji to Saigon, \$3 per ton.

Nurnberg—German steamer, 2,663 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.80 per ton.

Ningpo—British steamer, 1,240 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Swatow, \$2.35 per ton.

Hopsang—British steamer, 1,359 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.15 per ton.

Benlawers—British steamer, 1,481 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.10 per ton.

Savioia—German steamer, 1,622 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$2.10 per ton.

Bjorn—Norwegian steamer, 724 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.

Petrarch—German steamer, 1,252 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.

Elita Nossack—German steamer, 1,161 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.

Independent—German steamer, 1,040 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.

Prima—Norwegian steamer, 761 tons, Saigon to Philippines, 26 cents per picul.

Hansa—German steamer, 1,201 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 26 cents per picul (30,000 piculs).

Else—German steamer, 903 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 27 cents per picul.

Nanyang—German steamer, 1,060 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 28 cents per picul.

Hansa—German steamer, 1,201 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 28 cents per picul.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

May—

- 18, Kaisow, British str., from Woosung.
- 18, Taishan, British str., from Saigon.
- 18, Tetartos, German str., from Saigon.
- 19, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 19, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
- 19, Gloucester City, British str., from Saigon.
- 19, Hupeh, British str., from Saigon.
- 19, Murex, British str., from Singapore.
- 19, Skuld, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 19, Sleipner, Norwegian str., from Rajang.
- 19, Trym, Norwegian str., from Newchwang.
- 19, Taintau, German str., from Bangkok.
- 20, Achilles, British str., from Shanghai.
- 20, Bintang, Danish str., from Freemantle.
- 20, Borg, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 20, Doris, Norwegian str., from Manila.
- 20, Dott, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 20, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 20, Loksang, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 20, Polyphemus, British str., from Liverpool.
- 20, Sado Maru, Japanese str., from London.
- 20, Saxonia, German str., from Shanghai.
- 20, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
- 20, Tiger, German gunboat, from Canton.
- 20, Trigonis, British str., from Swatow.
- 21, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 21, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.

- 21, Pelayo, British str., from Singapore.
- 21, Perla, British str., from Manila.
- 21, Rbt. Dickinson, British str., put back.
- 21, Tacoma, British str., from Tacoma.
- 21, Taichow, German str., from Bangkok.
- 21, Tirol, Austrian str., from Trieste.
- 21, Tordenskjold, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
- 21, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
- 22, Ailsa Craig, British str., from Moji.
- 22, Austria, Austrian str., from Yokohama.
- 22, Ballarat, British str., from Shanghai.
- 22, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 22, Germania, German str., from Saigon.
- 22, Hansa, German str., from Iloilo.
- 22, Miike Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 22, Mogul, British str., from Japan.
- 22, Mongkut, German str., from Bangkok.
- 22, Picciola, German str., from Iloilo.
- 22, Savioia, German str., from Mororan.
- 22, Strassburg, German str., from Hamburg.
- 22, Yunnan, British str., from Moji.
- 22, Wuhu, British str., from Moji.
- 23, Chusan, British str., from Bombay.
- 23, J. Diederichsen, German str., from Menaro.
- 23, Shirakumo, Japanese torp.-bt. destroyer, from London.
- 23, Shimosa, British str., from New York.
- 23, Zafiro, U.S. transport, from Cavite.

May—

- 19, Dr. H. J. Kiser, Norw. str., for Saigon.
- 19, Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
- 19, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
- 19, Robt. Dickinson, British str., for Y'hama.
- 19, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
- 19, Shansi, British str., for Saigon.
- 19, Tonkin, French str., for Europe.
- 20, Foochow, British str., for Saigon.
- 20, Hailong, British str., for Tamsui.
- 20, Hangsang, British str., for Canton.
- 20, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 20, Loksang, British str., for Canton.
- 20, Madeleine Rickmers, Ger. str., for S'pore.
- 20, Peleus, British str., for Shanghai.
- 20, Pitchaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
- 20, Shantung, British str., for Amoy.
- 20, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
- 20, Taishun, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 20, Tsinan, British str., for Australia.
- 21, Achilles, British str., for London.
- 21, Amoy, German str., for Newchwang.
- 21, Athenian, British str., for Vancouver.
- 21, Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
- 21, Else, German str., for Swatow.
- 21, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
- 21, Kaisow, British str., for London.
- 21, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.
- 21, Murex, British str., for Hankow.
- 21, Polyphemus, British str., for Moji.
- 21, Queensland, British str., for Singapore.
- 22, Bintang, Dan. str., for Ching-wan-chow.
- 22, Canton, British str., for Foochow.
- 22, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
- 22, Clive, British str., for Taku.
- 22, Diamante, British str., for Saigon.
- 22, Dott, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 22, Indrapura, British str., for Portland.
- 22, Kaga Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
- 22, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
- 22, Paoting, British str., for Shanghai.
- 22, Sado Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 22, Saxonia, German str., for Hamburg.
- 22, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
- 22, Tingsang, British str., for Canton.
- 22, Tirol, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
- 22, Trigonis, British str., for Palembang.
- 22, Triumph, German str., for Tsingtau.
- 23, Chuan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 23, Formosa, British str., for Manila.
- 23, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 23, Ibadan, British str., for Manila.
- 23, Kagan, British str., for Saigon.
- 23, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
- 23, Loyal, German str., for Bangkok.
- 23, Mogul, British str., for London.
- Phra C. C. Klao, German str., for Bangkok.
- 23, Trym, Norwegian str., for Newchwang.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Salazie*, from Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mr. Carvalho; from Bombay, Mr. Cama; from Batavia, Mrs. O. Moera; from Singapore, Mr. Marfield; from Saigon, Mrs. O'Connell and Mrs. Dufour; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mrs. Begue and two children, Miss Roger, Messrs. Savioia, Joostan, Minal, Meunier, Giuseppe Tarassi, Albini and Ma; from Suez, Mr.

Antoine; from Port Said, Mr. Zablocki; from Bombay, Messrs. Kermacchi, Franco, S. and U. Brander and Master Sutter; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Backer and four children, Messrs. Nathan, Wittels and Michael; from Saigon, Mr. Zelotier; for Nagasaki, from Batavia, Mrs. Luicks, Mrs. Matjaigama Oking and Mrs. Okito Tanaka; from Saigon, Mrs. Muira Tsuna; for Kobe, from Singapore, Mr. Gomi; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Sanft and Mrs. Verissel and two sons; from Colombo, Messrs. Engel and Waryer.

Per *Tonkin*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mrs. Clarke and Miss Schupilanks; from Shanghai, Mrs. Jorge and child, Mr. and Mrs. Rocha, Messrs. J. A. Lander, Harold Roberts, J. A. Thomas, W. White, R. Schwob, C. E. Roach, G. Martini and Arima; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Messrs. Hewett and S. Catalani; for Singapore, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Hare and child and Mr. P. H. Lee; for Bombay, from Yokohama, Lieut. Col. and Mrs. Clarkson; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Messrs. Eglin, Fanveap and Vilatte; from Kobe, Mr. A. E. Fischer and Dr. Lebeaupin; from Shanghai, Bishop Codset, Rev. Father Herconit, Rev. Father Boscot, Bishop Muzzi, Messrs. Binder, Chaumont, Perron, Creignon, Bedour, Bonnechaux and Lesquoy.

Per *Sado Maru*, from London, for Hongkong, Rev. and Mrs. C. Hickling and Miss Hickling, Miss A. Hadden, G. Rouse, J. Archer, A. J. Williams, J. Boyceup, T. Tokumi, W. Guild, J. Moffatt, H. Brackston, K. Kawakami, M. Yamaguchi, J. Molbray and W. H. Case; for Kobe, Messrs. J. Hitomi, H. W. Atanabe, M. Mayahara, Mr. and Mrs. K. Matsuo; for Yokohama, Messrs. A. C. Harper, G. Nishi, T. Kazama, J. Ochi and T. Oda.

Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Mr. A. G. Wood and Master Rozario.

Per *Perla*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Waddington, Mr. and Mrs. Innes, Misses Mitchell, J. Clifford and C. Valentine, Messrs. F. E. Fennaway, Kuhlman, C. H. Hanlin, Albert T. Daniel, C. Echarat, J. Griswold, Browning, J. Latta, G. Munington, A. Gilmore and Perry.

From San Francisco, &c., Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Sharp and two children, Misses Ma Mee, Walford, Gore and Gilman, Mrs. Nakashia, Dr. Stedman, Lieut. Moberley, Messrs. J. M. Doherty, Edgar Cockell, S. A. Campbell, P. Kraft, J. S. Ritchie, I. Ohno, J. H. Moore, G. W. Beecher, I. Israel, J. P. McCoy and R. C. Brown.

Per *Strassburg*, from Hamburg, &c., Messrs. Alexander and Perry.

DEPARTED.

Per *Rosetta Maru*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Goodrich, Mrs. J. Franklin Bell, Mr. and Mrs. W. Damergue, Messrs. H. Roberts, J. Thomer, and P. Botelho.

Per *Athenian* from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Allanson and two children, Mrs. A. M. Basto, Messrs. M. Loweristien, Chesney Duncan and C. E. Rosch; for Nagasaki, Mrs. S. A. Mitchell and Mr. D. K. Mitchell; for Kobe, Mrs. Mary McCloy and two children and Mrs. Kito; for Yokohama, Mrs. A. Grossman and infant, Mrs. T. R. Beck, Messrs. H. H. Nieweg, A. L. Clover and A. E. Spooner; for San Francisco, Messrs. Irving Needham, H. Miouret, T. W. Thiesen, and Hy. Till; for Vancouver, Capt. and Mrs. E. Fey; for St. Paul, Messrs. A. M. Gieseler and A. H. Cathart; for London, Mrs. Compton Wilson and Mr. John Glover; for New York, Misses Bessie McCloy and Mary McCloy; for Baltimore, Rev. C. E. Patton and child; for Portland, Miss Patterson and Miss Jack; for Seattle, Messrs. H. Marshall and C. de Kast; for Paris, Mons. Lux; for London, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Marriott; from Yokohama, for London, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Vernon, Messrs. E. S. Vernon, jr. and R. Hay.

Per *Kaga Maru*, for Seattle, &c., Mrs. Browning, Messrs. S. Emerson, W. F. Brown, M. Tagawa, K. Shimada and K. Uno.

Per *Sado Maru*, for Japan, Mr. A. C. Harper, Lieut. Eng. I. Kazama, Mr. and Mrs. Matsuo, Messrs. G. Nishi, I. Hitomi, I. Ochi, S. Yazo, K. Matsumi, Oda, Watanabe and Mayehara.

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